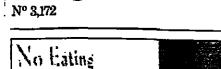
THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER 1996

(IR45p) 40p



THE TABLOID **DeVito**



NEWS Lara's theme PAGE 3



COMMENT **Richard Dawkins:** an atheist at Christmas PAGE 17

WERTHER: Cloudy with rain

Boom time .. but not for Tories

Anthony Bevins Political Editor Diane Coyle Economics Editor

The Government yesterday used a record-breaking fall in the jobless total to claim that the economy was roaring ahead.

But Kenneth Clarke promptly cast a cloud over the good news with an outspoken attack on the Tory Euro-sceptic mythmakers.

Illustrating the central Conservative frustration, that the party's deep political divisions on Europe divert electoral attention from the Government's success in curbing unemployment and inflation, the Chancellor directly challenged the dissidents within his party.

Earlier, ministers fell over each other to welcome a record-breaking plunge in the number of people claiming unemployment benefit, and a fall in the headline jobless total to below 2 million for the first time in almost six years.

John Major, on a visit to Northern Ireland, said: Britain's economy is now the

lion that roars in Europe." But Mr Clarke delivered a lecture in which he protested about the doubts that continued to pag away at EU membership. Today, we are becoming prey to a mythology that we joined only an economic community, with no serious political dimension, and that the purpose of our membership was uniquely economic," he said in a lecture at the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London.
"That is not the case." Mr

Tarke said former Tory preiniers Harold Macmillan, Sir Alec Douglas Home and Edward Heath had all argued that membership would enhance the political standing of the UK.

He added: "Europe offers us a growing opportunity to excel economically, and the best is yet to come." However, he warned: "Our continuing and future economic success, exploiting the opportunities of our enterprise economy, depends to a sig-nificant degree on Britain being and staying a key player in the

politics of our Continent." At a press conference on the latest jobless total, for last month. Mr Clarke was one of six ministers playing Santa Claus. They said Britain's jobs performance was the best in Western Europe. Growth was strong and sustainable, the conceded that unemployment Chancellor said, adding: 'And would not be falling as much

would have to ask themselves whether they wanted to risk a change to Labour's economic

Ian Lang, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said the advantages of the UK's flexible and efficient labour

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, said





other European countries would take a lead from Britain. *Confidence in the British

economy is growing and growing," he said.

The number of unemployment benefit claimants fell by 95,800 in November, the biggest monthly fall since the early 1960s. The headline figure was swollen by at least 25,000 with the introduction of the Jobseeker's Allowance, and Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education and Employment,

I'm glad to say it has given more every month. Labour picked on jobs to more people in time for the admission as proof of an-Christmas." He said voters other fiddle. Its employment spokesperson Ian McCartney said more people believed in Santa than believed the Government's unemployment fig-

However, economists said yesterday's figures were evidence of a buoyant jobs market, market would be threatened if despite the distortions. The a Labour government signed up to the EU's Social Chapter and introduced a minimum number of new jobs has in-creased according to the latest evidence, although many are part-time.

This was underlined by the announcement yesterday that the restaurant chain Pizza Hut will create 5,000 posts - a mix of part- and full-time - over the next four years.

Separate official figures confirmed that high street sales have remained buoyant. Last month saw an especially strong gain in sales related to the housing market, and in clothing

Although the economy's pick-up has not brought much sign so far of wage and price pressures, the City concluded yesterday that a small increase in base rates is on the cards for the New Year. But Mr Clarke said a rise in interest rates was not inevitable. Things have never been set so fair for the immediate future," he said.

Later, in his lecture, the Chancellor said: "People do not invest in Britain, they do not acquire our companies, they do not create new jobs in this country, just because they like to play golf or practise their English.

They do it because they see

Britain as a high-skill, low-tax, flexible, business-friendly entrypoint into the big, rich consumer market place which is Europe

Mr Clarke said Britain and Europe went together for foreign investors, as they should for the British people. One led to the other and, as on the home front, good economics and good politics went hand in hand in Europe.

"As a country," Mr Clarke said, "we cannot choose to live by the European market-place economically and then exclude ourselves from the discussion of the political future of our con-

"That is the path of those who would seek British withdrawal from the EU, or a fundamental renegotiation of our membership terms. It is one which we rightly reject."



And then we kissed

David Lister Arts News Editor

She might come and live in London, she will definitely have more babies, she prepared for her death scene in Evita by reading the Sun. Madonna and child swept into London and, with baby Lourdes Maria safely tucked up in

bed, mum gave a press conference.

She was only two hours late, which puts her just under the top division of Hollywood actresses. But her pink lipstick was rather endearingly smudged on her teeth, which showed the rawer, rock artist beneath. A shrewdly calculated amalgam of styles-

It took Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber to divert attention with a cort reference to his erstwhile partner, Evita's hyricist, Sir Tim Rice, who was absent: "I don't know where he is today. I just

feel it's important to be here to show my endorsement of the very hard work people have done. And I am sorry he is not here." And very hard work it evidently was, "We

endured blistering heat and bone-chilling cold," recalled Madonna. "We witnessed political uprisings and scathing media attacks." Who'd be a movie star?

"I identify with Eva Peron on several levels," she informed us. "The fact that she came from a small town and came from nothing and got to the big city and had the courage to make something incredible out of her life, and people were either incredibly for or against her."

The Independent tried to catch her afterwards for the *de rigeu*r pop-star interview, to garner her views on Europe and the political scene. But she merely proffered a hand to be kissed. I was glad to oblige.

Tank Française

QUICKLY

Minister criticised The minister for the environment, Sir Paul Beresford, is expected to be strongly criticised by a report from the district auditor into the sale of councils houses in the Tory flagship

borough of Wandsworth, in

south London, where he

was the leader until 1992.

Basham libel win

Page 3 p

Public relations consultant Brian Basham won £20,000 libel damages plus damages, over a book about the bitter war between British Airways and Virgin Atlantic which he said depicted as a professional liar. He worked for BA.

MP steps aside The Tory MP Sir David Mitchell is to stand down as a member of the Commons committee investigating the cash for questions scandal because his son, the former whip, Andrew Mitchell, is to be called to give evidence to it.

Party hostage terror in Peru

Phil Davison Latin America Correspondent

Well-armed left-wing guerrillas were holding at least 200 politicians, ambassadors and top businessmen hostage last night in Peru. They threatened to kill them all and then themselves, after a daring assault on a diplomatic Christmas party at

the Japanese ambassador's

residence in Lima. The 20 or so masked guerrillas of the Tupac Amaru Liberation Movement (MRTA). were demanding the release of up to 500 group members and said they would start the killing with Peru's Foreign Minister Francisco Tudela, if President Alberto Fujimori did not show up personally to hear their demands. A first deadline for killing Mr Tudela at 20 minutes after mid-day (5.20pm GMT) yesterday, passed without con-firmation they had carried out the threat. No shots were heard . although a shot and an explo-



Free: Some women were allowed to go

with the all the hostages," one rebel told a local radio station by phone. Another described the hostages as prisoners of war. Foreign governments urged Mr Fujimori, known for his tough line against guerrillas, not to contemplate a military assank, Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said an attack would lead to a "massacre". At

Photograph: AP "We are clear. The liberation confirmed reports that antiof all our comrades, or we die terrorist commandos in several countries were on stand-by to fly to the Peruvian capital.

Asked whether the US had been asked to send a hostage rescue team - there were said to be seven Americans in the building - a White House spokesman, Mike McCurry, zenlied: "I'm going to decline comment on that." Britain's ambassador, John Illman, had the same time there were un- just left the reception but at least

was believed to be held. A Financial Times correspondent Sally Bowen, a Briton, was at the party but was released soon after the assault, along with other women guests, said to include Mr Fujimori's mother and sister. It was the most dramatic guerrilla action in South America since the Colombian M-19 group assaulted the Supreme Court building in Bogota in November 1985. In a dramatic military assault, more

than 100 people died. Some 600 people, mainly se-nior diplomats, Peruvian politicians and executives of giant Japanese corporations such as NEC and Toyota, were at the party in the Japanese ambassador's residence in the wealthy San Isidro district of Lima. The guerrillas apparently fired a rocket at the building and stormed over its back wall, while others masquerading as waiters publiced weapons from cases of champagne.
Stroke of genius, page 11 9

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significant shorts

Protests greet Major lashes sale of genetic IRA on visit maize strain

Environmental groups and supermarkets joined in protest against the European Commission's decision yesterday to approve the sale of a new strain of geneticallymodified maize.

Greenpeace called on John Gummer, the Secretary of State for the Environment, to policy in response to Sinn ban the product, while Tesco said it would not allow the in animal feed for its meat supplies. Ciba-Geigy, which has developed the new maize, has made a written pledge that it will label bags containing its new seed to indicate the product had been obtained using biotechnology. Some scientists fear its use could lead to bacteria with heightened resistance to antibiotics. Charles Arthur

Fears for new E.coli victims

The condition of four elderly residents at an old people's home where the 13th victim of the Scottish E.coli 0157 outbreak died was described as "poor and giving cause for concern" yesterday. The Bankview Nursing Home, in Banknock was supplied with meat from an outlet which had received products from butcher John M Barr, the main focus for the outbreak investigation. The total number of people known to have the illness has risen to 163. while the number of those reported as showing symptoms remains at 316. Jojo Moyes

Labour urged to plug leaks

Civil service leakers are "sabotaging" the Govern-ment, Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary and head of the Civil Service, warned last night, when he appealed for help from Labour MPs in stopping more leaks taking place. Sir Robin, who is responsible for leaks inquiries, said the leaking of the Budget details was évidence of action by leakers to em-

barrass the Government and

sabotage its work. It was not done to force disclosure. He told the committee on public service there were 400 leaks in the past 16 years and 30 per cent went to the Opposition, pressure groups and trade unions. The rest went to the press. This is damaging to our system of Government," he said. Sir Robin refused to be drawn on the claim by Michael Heseltine, the deputy Prime Minister, that civil servants

were helping Labour. Colin

to Ulster

John Major, in Northern Ireland for his traditional pre-Christmas prime ministerial visit yesterday, concentrated his political fire on Sinu Fein and the IRA.

In a Belfust Telegraph interview, Mr Major indicated that his recent statement of Fein should be taken as his "last definitive word on the use of the unprocessed maize subject before the election".

Attacking Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams, the Prime Minister declared: "If Mr Adams wants to enter into the talks, and if he really wants peace, as he says he does, he has to stop preparing for war. He hasn't stopped preparing for war."

Lobbies delay law on waste

Proposed laws to boost the recycling of packaging waste have been weakened and delayed by half a year following lobbying of the Government by companies making and using packaging materials. Environment Secretary John Gummer announced. The targets for the proportion of waste packaging companies will have to recycle have been lowered. Nicholas

Left-winger faces discipline

A left-wing Labour Member of the European Parliament is facing disciplinary action by his party. Hugh Kerr said the leadership wanted to "make an example" of him because of his criticism of New Labour. Wayne David, who leads Labour's 62 MEPs, is refusing to nominate Mr Kerr to the Parliament's Australian delegation.

Edinburgh bribery claim

Police are to investigate allegations made to the Nolan Committee that Edinburgh planning committee councillors have taken bribes from developers. Councillor Donald Gorrie said there were "people on planning committees who were dishonest".

Jailed mother lodges appeal

Debbie Smith, the mother-ofthree jailed for nine months for attacking her husband's mistress lodged a formal appeal against her sentence yesterday. Charlie Bain

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Toad tables debate for the poor church mice

You or I, when tabling a debate about giving more dosh for old churches, might call it something like "the funding of old churches". But then you or I are not Sir Patrick Cormack. The knight - member for Staffordshire South, MP for 26 years and author of Heritage in Danger, Castles of Britain and English Cathedrals - called his debate "the ecclesiastical heritage".

Many MPs are vain, some have inflated senses of themselves; but few are capable of such effortless pomposity as Sir Patrick. A arge man, with a biggish head, large spectacles, a wide mouth that is often set in a shallow downwards curve and a fondness for green, Sir Patrick reminds me of the



Faster still Mr Sproat went, words merging, tumbling out of his mouth and into the record large toad - Mr Jackson i think his name was - who sat in Mrs Tittlemouse's kitchen saying "tiddly, widdly, widdly". He is the only MP who is paired (satisfactorily for all concerned) with

As ever, Sir Patrick spoke

vithout the aid of notes. Who needs a map, after all, when Auronovitch the pathway between brain and tongue is so welltrodden? Next Wednesday, he reminded us, was Christmas Day ("Chrissymas day? Lor hrv you squire if it ain't!"), when "all over England people will flock to their churches and cathedrals". And it was, he said, his view that "one was closest to the soul and spirit of a nation when in its historic buildings". buildings - the churches were in jeopardy, and needed vast amounts of cash

Shortly we would reach the millennium. "I often think that people, when they speak glibly of the millennium, forget that the millennium is the 200th anniversary of the birth of our Lord", he said. I pondered this alarming information. His mathematics suggested that the deity he worshipped was born in the year 1800, making Sir Patrick a follower of Joanna Southcott, or one of the other shaking, quivering or quaking

prophets who were around at the time. I examined him

more closely, and decided it

spending on them.

No one though, was going to pick him up on it, because almost no one was there apart, of course, from the alarming-looking deputy speaker, Dame Janet Fookes. in her blue and green harlequin's outfit and bloodcoloured hair, and lain Sproat, the Heritage minister. whose job it was to reply for the Government. Mr Sproat is a good guy. He

is courteous and informative in his answers to questions in the House. But he was faced with a problem. He had just 15 minutes to deliver his speech of reply to Sir Patrick - a speech that would be pored over by church leaders, vicars and congregations across the land - and he had in his hand a text (prepared for him, no

servants) that would take at least an hour to say. Unfortunately, poor Mr Sproat only realised his predicament about five minutes into his address, when all the time-consuming pleasantries had already been nttered

The minister was in a race against time. He speeded up considerably, but still the pile of pages in front him seemed impossibly thick. Faster still he went, words merging into each other, tumbling out of his mouth and into the record. "Chiddle diddle VAT swibble bubble," he told us. And finished, to a silent round of applause. "Tiddly widdly widdly", nodded Sir Patrick, happily.

Minister heads for censure on home sales

Christian Wolmar Westminster Correspondent

> The environment minister, Sir Paul Beresford, is expected to be strongly criticised by a report into the sale of council houses by Wandsworth where he was leader until 1992. The report, by the district au-

ditor, Rowland Little of Binder Hamlyn, is to be published today and will open up a new front in the sleaze war between the parties. The report covers the council house sales policy of the council in the 1980s and early 1990s and has strong resonance with events in Westminster where the council's designated sales policy led to surcharges of £31.6m being imposed on the former leader Lady Porter and eight other councillors and officers by the district auditor.

The Wandsworth district auditor is expected to confirm his own preliminary views about the illegality of the council's actions but falls short, again, of recommending that Sir Paul and other councillors involved in the scheme should be surcharged. The report is expected to say that while the council made a number of mistakes, unlike Westminster, it did not try to gerrymander by selling properties in politically marginal areas to boost the Tory vote.

In a preliminary report issued by Mr Little in March 1995, Wandsworth was criticised for misdirecting itself in law by failing to strike a balance between the need to promote home ownership and the needs of ... homeless households". By declaring in September 1992 new sales areas where all homes becoming vacant would be sold rather than re-let, "Wandsworth failed to take into account matters which it ought to have". Since council house sales started in Wandsworth in 1978, they have brought the council £450m in receipts, but between 1982



Paul Beresford: Under

and 1991 homelessness acceptances doubled. It was this failure to consider this mounting problem, while selling vacant houses which could have been re-let to those in need, which led to the criticism of the

Despite the criticism and the finding that the council acted illegally, Mr Little was not in favour of surcharge proceedings because the financial costs would have outweighed the benefits to ratenavers.

Mr Little's continued opposition to a surcharge will disappoint the 16 objectors who brought the case including Peter Hain, a former parliamentary candidate for the nearby seat of Putney, and now a front-bench Labour MP.

Mr Hain said he had been very disappointed at the preliminary finding. "It was ridiculous that they got off. Beresford should have resigned anyway because he was head of a council that had acted illegally. If the auditor has again ducked the issue, we will consider whether it is possible to have a judicial review of his decision.

The sales policy was devised when Sir Paul was chairman of the council's housing commit-tee between 1980 and 1985, and was so successful that Westminster tried to copy it.

Blair launches prime-time television offensive



Tony Blair yesterday pictured on the Des O'Connor Show as part of a charm offensive to dispel his "smarmy" image Added to an appearance on BBc Radio 4's Woman's Hour, he was trying to show that like other 14-year-old schoolboys, he was a bit of a teenage tearaway, writes Colin Brown

The leader of the Labour Party wanted to go a bit further than most other boys who bunked off from school, however.

When he played truant, he tried to catch a flight to the Bahamas. "It was one of the craziest things I've ever done." His parents put him on a train in Newcastle to return to Fettes School in Edinburgh, but instead of heading off to lessons and "fagging" for older boys, he got changed into casual clothes and made his way to Newcastle Airport,

about to take off when the stewardess came up to me and said: 'I don't think I actually saw your boarding pass'." He told her: "Don't tell anyone, but I'm

His escape never got off the ground. But the disclosure that he had played truant may have endeared Mr Blair to the elderly women, who, according to the polls, have so far proved impervious to his charms, and find him "smarmy".

MP quits sleaze committee

where he joined passengers on a flight.

"I snuck onto the plane, and we were

The senior Conservative backbencher, Sir David Mitchell, is standing down as a member of the Commons committee investigating the cash for ques-tions affair because his son, the former whip, Andrew Mitchell is to be called to give evidence to the committee.

The Standards and Privileges Committee, which last week produced a highly criti-cal report on David Willetts that resulted in his resignation as a Treasury minister, will in the New Year be investigating

the role of Mr Mitchell in the parliamentary investigation into the Neil Hamilton MP and cash for questions affair.

Mr Mitchell was a whip in 1994 when, unusually, he was appointed to the now defunct Members' Interests Committee. According to Angela Eagle, a Labour MP on the committee at the time:"Mr Mitchell was always at the forefront of things. He took a a very active role. He would make his views known very early on, so that his side knew what the line was. This was not the way a quasi-judicial committee

should conduct its business."
Mr Mitchell will be asked by the Standards and Privileges Committee why he wrote a note to the chief whip in October 1994 following an article in The Independent, which re-vealed that Mr Hamilton had

cy with a public relations com-The note, written on the day the article was published, said that Mr Mitchell had spoken to the Registrar of Members' Interests and the memo

failed to declare a consultan-

committee was entering unthere was no precedent to

knowing what it would decide Mr Mitchell, MP for Gedling, has written an explanatory note to the Standards and Privileges Committee. about his role in the Hamilton affair, but feels he has done nothing wrong and refuses to

apologise for any actions.
Under new terms of giving evidence announced by the Committee following the Willetts hearings, Mr Mitchell will explains that the Registrar be expected to give evidence on would have to conclude that the oath.



Pairing dispute turns into farce

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

Labour's new campaign of non-co-operation with the Government went from guerrilla warfare to Christmas pan-tomime farce last night as both sides said they had broken parliamentary rules by accident.

While Conservatives accused Labour of cheating to inflict a government defeat on Tuesday, Labour accused the Tories of similar skulduggery in a cru-cial vote on Monday. Opposition parties have given notice that pairing arrangements under which opposing MPs agree not to vote will be suspended from January.

There was embarrassment for the Conservatives as 13 out of 15 Labour "cheats" who were supposed to have voted despite being paired turned out to

have made no such agreement. One of the Tories who was supposed to have been cheated admitted that he missed Tuesday's vote because he had gone to a BBC Christmas pary. Jerry Hayes, MP for Harlow, said he thought his pair, John McAllion, would also be out. "I went to a very good par-

going to be a vote anyway." he At the same time another

Conservative, Julian Brazier, was forced to apologise to his Labour "pair", Rhodri Morgan, for accidentally voting despite an agreement not to do so.

Although there were no official apologies from Conservative Central Office, the former party whip Sir Archie Hamilton said he had reservations about what had happened on Monday when three Tory MPs were ap-parently "double-paired" with both Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs, giving the Government three extra votes.

"I think it was something that the Government might now regret, particularly in terms that we would have won that vote anyway," he said.

There were also rumours that the Cabinet's paging system had broken down on Tuesday and that senior ministers were never even told there was a vote. One senior Conservative source revealed that a number of Cabinet ministers and a dozen or so backbench MPs were all at the same Christmas party.

The Labour MP Alan Simp

ty, and I assumed there wasn't son said: "It isn't our fault if the Tories are drunk in charge of the country." Then Labour was forced to

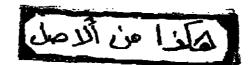
own up a gaffe of its own as two of its paired MPs admitted that they had voted against the Government in a debate on its anti-stalking Bill when they had promised not to. One, John Maxton, sheep-

ishly told party whips that he had gone into the lobby when the division bell had rung without even thinking what he was doing. "It was like Pavlov's dog I just heard the bells." he

A Conservative spokes-Woman continued to accuse Labour of cheating, and pointed out that the party had promised to co-operate with the stalking Bill. The Government will now try to reverse Labour's amendment to the Bill in the

House of Lords. Meanwhile Labour's Chief Whip, Donald Dewar, repeated Labour's own allegations. The Government should apologisc, he added.

There has been no defence. no other explanation other than humbug and bluster," he said. Leading article, page 15



THE INDEPENDENT - THIRD IN THE

Christmas present: Lavish gifts tempt the less-well-off as computer heroine sweeps games giants off the board

Poorest pockets buy the biggest toys

Louise Jury

People living in Britain's poorest areas are expected to spend the most on toys, games and computers this Christmas, according to new market research.

Families in the top toy-buying districts may spend twice that of the richest boroughs in the country. The national average is £76 for every child.

The estimated figures, based on a new household income survey, PayCheck, by market analysts CACI, show the three highest spenders all have a high incidence of low earners, single parents and unemployment. In real terms, people in a form of compensation. It's all Knowsley near Liverpool, Halvery well, she said, "if you've

ton, near Widnes, in Cheshire.
and Easington, Durham - had everything you need, to make the decision that you don't and Easington, Durham - ranked as Britain's poorest district - spend up to three times rict - spend up to three times your children. But if you haven't had the advantage then it's still income than the more affluent an aspiration." areas, CACI claimed. Despite vastly different lev-

poorer districts appear to be spending more on toys per child than those in the richest districts," a spokeswoman said.

Barbie and Action Man, the joint top-selling toys this Christ-mas, cost around £25 for the Action Man Crime Buster and £19 for the Barbie Strolling Sisters. The Pre-Computer Power Pad, an electronic learning aid at number four in the charts, retails for around £90. Monopoly, which came to Britain in the mid-1930s, is the favourite board game at around £11.50.

Neither child experts nor toy retailers were surprised at the statistics, which confirm previous findings by market analysts.

Gerry Masters, of the British Association of Toy Retailers, said the phenomenon was wellknown in the industry. In the East End of London, he said, he could remember seeing very large toys which were not on sale. in more affluent areas. "I was told they liked big presents," he bigded. Similarly, in Liverpool during strikes, Fridays were seen as good days by toy stores because that was when the mothers received their allowances and would spend on the children.

m

wealthy borough, always com-plained he had to struggle to make a living, Mr Masters said. "The parents have got school fees. Although they will spend on toys, they won't buy as many and they will be more selective. They will get something which is worthy and not be lavish."

The irony was that if children are left on their own in a toy shop to choose, they would often go for something simple. "Money is not what interests them," Mr Masters said.

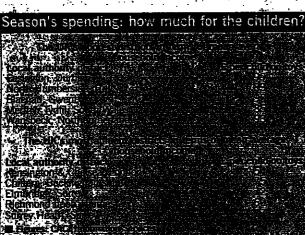
Eileen Hayes, parenting adviser to the National Society for Children, said the spending was have to buy all these things for

"You find the same with spending on baby goods - [the els of wealth, families in the poorer families buy] the most expensive pram. In general, the middle-class and more well-off don't mind having second-hand things, whereas poor families

> But Mrs Hayes said the commercial pressure could be re-sisted. "Don't feel guilty if you can't give your children mate-rial things, because what they need is your love and your time. The rest is definitely sec-

Sally Witcher, director of the Child Poverty Action Group, said she would not accept the CACI figures at face value. But she said: There is ample evidence that income support is inadequate at the best of times and at Christmas even more so. What it means is people make choices about what essentials they're going to spend on."

John Alexander of the Keep Sunday Special campaign, which has been alarmed by the commercialisation of Christmas, added another warning note. "What concerns us is al the families being pulled apart by the demand and pressures of having to go and work in the shops. In many cases, dad will be working on Christmas Eve In comparison, a shopkeeper in Richmond, Surreys and then back on Boxing I er in Richmond, Surreys a to get ready for the sales? and then back on Boxing Day





real: Lara Croft, the pneumatic 3-D star of the screen game Tomb Raider, which has had rave reviews in computer magazines

l-raider set to take over games world

Charles Arthur Science Editor

Lara Croft may look like your average gun-totin', Barbieshaped tomb-exploring Britishwritten computer hero, but she could have two significant efexpects on the world as reenage same has helped the £200 Sony computer freaks know it.

computer game Tomb Raider, available for the Sony Playstation games console, could give Sony pole position over Nin-tendo and Sega, the two companies usually thought of as dominant in video games.

Secondly, she could overturn a decade of video games in which the central action figure has always been male - just like the vast majority of their players.

Ms Croft, of indeterminate age, was created by a team at Derby-based Core Design. In Tomb Raider, she is never off the screen, in her role as an explorer searching for an ancient artefact called the Scion in the

undiscovered Tomb of Qalopec sales charts. Sony claims that in the Peruvian mountains, this year it has sold more than which apparently contains wolves, lions, bears, monkeys, bats, crocodiles, rats, pumas

and dinosaurs. The highly detailed threedimensional experience of the separately, costs £45, but the game has helped the £200 Sony rave reviews it has received in omputer freaks know it. Playstation, released last year, First, this heroine from the rocket towards the top of the

£600m worth of hard and software for the machine, and a total of 10 million of the consoles, 2.4 million of those in Europe.

The success of Tomb Raider described as "an exceptional will also hit Nintendo, which had hoped for a worldwide launch of its next generation of machine. the Nintendo 64, last summer,

Tomb Raider, which is sold games magazines has boosted

but instead was only able to launch it in the United States and Japan. A European launch is scheduled for next March, though Nintendo admits that Tomb Raider - which one review

Toy rockets to cosmic price at auction A Newcastle factory worker, Harry Meers, yesterday paid more than three times the

retail price for a Buzz Lightyear toy – a Christmas surprise for his daughter. But it was only after he spent £94.10 for Tyneside's only example of the plastic space man – bought nine months ago for £26.95

that he realised it would be no surprise. The auction of the toy attracted so much media attention he realised his 13-year-old daughter, Amber Elizabeth, was bound to find out in advance.

experience that you will never forget" - will probably not be available for the Nintendo 64. Instead, it will offer an older, familiar character - the moustachioed New York Italian plumber, Mario, whose latest

adventures form one of only four games that will be available for the Nintendo 64, compared to about 200 for the Playstation. But will games players who have experienced Tomb Raider

be willing to go back to a hero who is clearly overweight and middle-aged, after the pneumatic, cave-diving Ms Croft? "We might be the witnesses of a new generation of action

games with women as main characters," said Frederick Claude, in an early review. Why? "In essence, the answer is the following: since we must watch the action during the whole game, it is much more pleasant to look at a woman." As some might say - a giant step for Sony, a tiny step for feminism.

solves the mystery of 'impossible' flight

Charles Arthur Science Editor

Why can insects such as the bumblebee fly? The answer has been solved by a team at Cambridge University, helped by a robot hawkmoth, and it may surprise aeronautical engineers -while leading to the design of a new generation of helicopters

and propellers.

According to standard laws of aerodynamics, insects' wings are too small to lift their comparatively huge bodies. But clearly, insects do fly - which led Charles Ellington, of the university's department of zoology, to decide to pin down the answer once and for all.

First, he studied the wing mations of a hawkmoth in an air tunnel, by blowing smoke over it while it flapped its wings.

Then, he built a robotic version, designed to have exactly the same wing motion, but five

times larger.
The robot used four servo motors and an elaborate gearbox to drive the movements of the wings, which were made of a framework of rigid and flexible brass tubes, covered on both sides with black elastic cloth. Smoke was used to illustrate the air flow forces on photographic images.

Scientists had previously thought that the missing link in the aerodynamic equation the extra lift required to keep an insect aloft - might be gen-erated by "rotational lift", through the twirling of the

wings as they flap.
But Professor Ellington reports today in the science jour-nal Nature that the extra lift needed to keep the moth aloft is generated during the wings' downstroke, when a spiral vortex of air travels across the leading edge of the wing, from base to tip. The vortex, a region of swirling air, creates a region of low pressure which sucks the

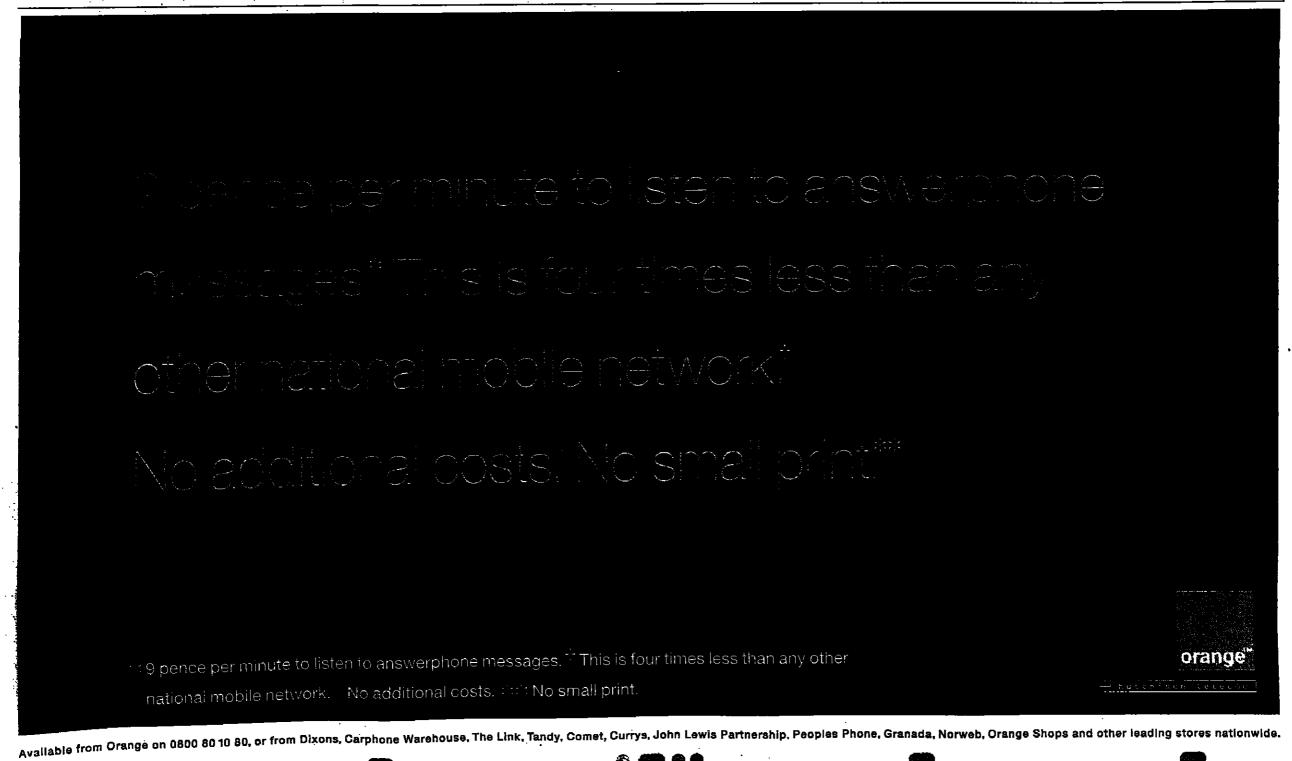
wing upwards - creating lift. The vortices form a complex pattern of loops and spirals which spin away from the wings. Just as one vortex dies out which would lead to stalling, and cause an earthward plunge another begins at the body

reinforcing the lift. Professor Ellington called the process of flying by this method "dynamic stalling": "This is so unlike what we had expected all along that this is a shock, really."

The findings could probably be applied to helicopter and propeller design, as those also

use vortices to create lift.

"It's something we are going to start looking at," Professor Ellington said. "It's a way to get something like two or three times more lift."



news

BBC funds defeat as licence fee is pegged

Media Correspondent

Television viewers can look forward to a minimal increase in the cost of the licence fee over the next five years after the BBC lost its battle to persuade the Government it needed more

tomley, the Heritage Secretary, that it needed more than than the usual inflation-pegged price increase to pay for the huge costs of launching digital tele-

But Mrs Bottomlev herself came under Treasury pressure to resist even an increase pegged to inflation with the election looming next spring. Yesterday, she announced

vision next year.

"modest increase" to the present £89.50 fee, but agreed a five-year formula which would see it rise by just below the rate of inflation, now 2.1 per cent.

Over the period to 2002, DNH says the licence fee will rise by 0.08 per cent below the retail price index, so if inflation stays at its current rate the fee

The settlement means that the licence fee will rise to £91.50 next year. The year after, it will rise by 3per cent above inflation to help cover the cost of launching digital television next

However, it will dip back in the final two years of the settlement to I per cent below in-

the compromise solution of will never reach the magic £100 flation in 2000, and 2.5 per cent denying the BBC its proposed figure in that time. flation in 2001.

The decision follows a report from independent consultants Braxton Associates which argued that the BBC could make further efficiency savings and was expecting a cash boost from the sale of its transmission services and an increase in income from commercial

eral, is understood to have disagreed on the extent of further savings which could be made over the next five years. But he said yesterday that the settlement was a positive signal, as it gives the BBC its first increase

the licence fee since 1985. The problem would be in years four and five when the licence fee dips. "My judgement

tlement is unrealistic in that we will be unable to fund the dig-ital vision in that period, said

Mrs Bottomley hailed the settlement as a victory for the

ther efficiency savings at the

keep the pressure on to deliver good value to the licence fee

Asked if she expected the licence fee to continue beyond 2002; she said: "The BBC Department of National Heritage. "The report from Braxton Associates makes it clear is inextricably linked with the lithat there is still room for fursecable future."

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CORCETT TO

TUC on road to capitalism with plans for power utility

Barrie Clement Industrial Editor

The TUC yesterday paved the way for the establishment of a union-owned utility offering cut-price power to millions of

The ruling General Council of the TUC agreed to investigate the practicalities of the historic venture, which would mark a sea-change in the movement's attitude to capitalism in general and privatisation in

Under the proposals, floated by Tony Cooper, General Secretary of the TUC-affiliated Engineers and Managers' Association, unions would set up a company with the help of private business, to take advantage of the liberalisation of electricity and gas supplies in their members it would earn the

large companies, but the Government intends to throw the market open to greater competition. It is not clear whether the TUC might set up an agency which would simply "sell" the names and addresses of seven million union members to newly-founded gas and electricity companies, or would take an

equity stake in a power supply organisation. The TUC General Council yesterday decided to set up a working party on the issue without a vote. Fuller discussion of the implications will now take

place in the New Year. On the advice of merchant bankers Kleinwort Benson, union leaders estimate that if

early 1998. Currently the sale of TUC £30 million a year. Annual GMB and Unison, the public power is dominated by a few running costs of the enterprise service union, are suspicious of have been estimated at

The TUC's financial problems could be solved overnight by the initiative, and John Monks, its General Secretary, is said to have an open mind on

However, such a venture would undermine the anti-privatisation policies of many of the largest TUC affiliates. Leftwingers are arguing that any enterprise which undercut private companies could affect the livelihood of trade unionists employed by them.

A spokesman for the GMB general union was sceptical about the idea. "It may simply be a kite which will never fly,

It is understood that both the

the initiative. They were unsure whether the union movement should move into the business world and were also doubtful about the viability of this particular scheme.

The TUC working party will have to bear in mind whether the initiative might have impli-cations for the "windfall tax" on former state-owned industries which is planned by the Labour Party. Internal TUC documents also speak of concern that unions might be accused of 'selling out" to capitalism.

In a letter to the TUC leader. however, Mr Cooper says the plan could enable unions to make a substantial amount of

cash". He said that the main

Rule change on torney-General, Sir Nicholas the Scott inquiry - would nec-essarily be disclosed.

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

The Government moved vesterday to reform the use of public-interest immunity (PII) certificates by ministers in court cases, in the wake of the criticisms in the Scott report into arms for Iraq.

But although ministers will in future only claim the protection of the so-called "gagging" orders if a document would cause "real damage or harm to the public interest", there were doubts last night that the new approach would make a significant difference.

In simultaneous Commons and Lords statements, the At-

Lyell, and the Lord Chancellor. Lord Mackay of Clashfern, said that ministers would "focus directly on the damage that disclosure would cause. The former division into class and contents claims will not longer applied ... The Government intends that this test shall be rig-orously applied before any PII claim is made for any government documents "

The final decision on whether official information should be disclosed in a criminal or civil trial would be for the courts concerned. There is no guarantee that a document vital to a person's defence - as in the Matrix Churchill trial which sparked

While the blanket nature of

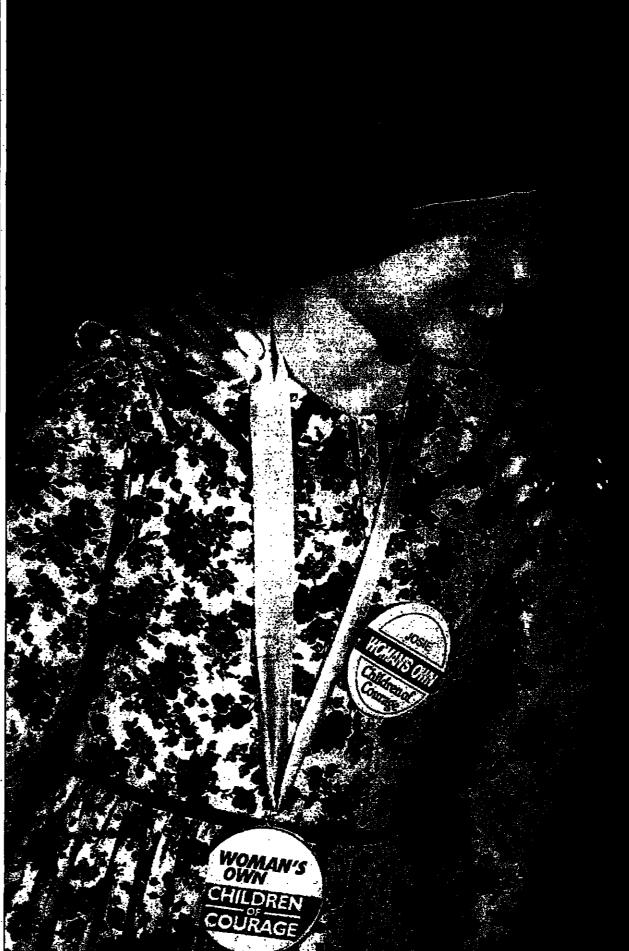
have been mitigated, "real damage or harm to the public interest" has not been defined. In a clue as to what the Crown might argue, the ministers suggested that it might relate to "a regulatory process; or it may be damage to international relations caused by the disclosure of confidential diplomatic relations" or "the nation's economic interests or our relations with a foreign state".

The ministers said PII certificates would :"set out in greater detail than before both what the document is and what damage its

- unless to do so would itself cause the damage which the

the earlier approach appears to certificate aims to prevent". That proviso indicates that it could be just as difficult in future to contest the testimony of the security services because it would he difficult to make informed representations to the court.

> Ben Emmerson, a civil rights barrister who is taking cases in-volving PII to the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg, said: "The move from class claims to claims relating to specific documents is a positive one. But the categories of information which can be withheld remain unacceptably vague and



Death penalty end, say MPs

A committee of MPs yesterday called for relaxation of the Dan-gerous Dogs Act, including an end to the mandatory death penalty and introduction of

"bail" for dogs awaiting trial.

Owners of dogs put behind
bars should also be allowed more frequent visiting rights, the cross-party Commons Home Affairs Select Committee said in its report on the operation of

The MPs decided to review the Act - rushed on to the Statute Book in the wake of a spate of attacks by pit bull terriers – because it has been condemned by dog lovers as

The report calls for a relaxing of some provisions of the Act and an end to the requirement to put down all pit bulls which contravene section 1, which banned all breeding, importing, selling or giving away of pit bulls. The Act also required all existing ones to be registered, neutered, tattooed and subject to third-party insurance as well as being muzzled and on a lead when in a

The MPs say there have been cases in which a pit bull was properly registered and responsibly controlled by its owner, but it was involved in a "minor breach" of the Act.

They highlight two celebrated cases: Dempsey, who was allegedly unmuzzled in a public place; and Otis, who was driven in his owner's car without a

The MPs also call for a reopening of the pit bull register. It was closed in November 1991 after owners were given a deadline to declare they had one of the breed. But, because the breed is not clearly defined, the MPs say pit bull puppies may be born after cross-breeding of two dogs, neither of which are pit bulls.

The committee argued that it would be unfair to demand destruction of such puppies, which may have been bred accidentally. Also, some owners were not aware that their dog was a pit bull by the time the register closed.

In court cases under the Act. the committee calls for a shift in the burden of proof, with the onus being on the prosecution to prove that a given dog is a pit bull. Currently it is up to the defence to prove that the dog is noThe Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Reform Group, which has been campaigning for five years for a change in the law, welcomed the report and said it would seek an urgent meeting with the Government to press

Life on Mars on dogs should theory faces the final curtain

Charles Arthur Science Editor

The scientific debate over whether there was once life on Mars intensified yesterday, as new evidence was published suggesting that the meteorite hailed in August as containing the remains of extraterrestrial bacteria in fact offers no proof of past life.

Two papers, accepted by a scientific journal dealing with the chemistry of terrestrial rocks and meteorites, have given a thumbs down to the idea that tiny tubular structures in ALH 84001, a Martian meteorite discovered in Antarctica, offer evidence that some sort of life existed on Mars roughly four biltion years ago.

Microscopic examination of the meteorite, and a comparison of its contents with those of rocks from the same area as it was found, both provide nonbiological explanations for the observations, say a group of American scientists.

The original claim was that the meteorite showed the results of biological action, because of the presence of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) deep within it, along with crystals of an iron compound called magnetite. Both are produced

they were buried so deeply within the meteorite that they could not have been introduced

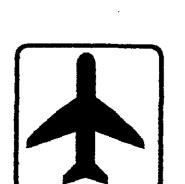
But New Scientist reports today that the journal Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta will publish scientific evidence that the magnetite was formed by in-organic action, while the PAHs filtered in from the terrestrial

surroundings.

Those claims though were swiftly rebutted yesterday by Ian Wright at the Open Dawersity. "The magnetite particle that

they observed for this was com-paratively large," he said. "But the ones found with the evidence of bacterial and are much smaller. So iffer tation of that isn't a see

John Valley, professional ology at the University of consin, who is presently carrying out tests at the Conservation Edinburgh on the 2021 84001 meteorite, said Evin Hibey re right, it doesn't disting the life hypothesis at all a diwnys thought the PAFF tructure was the weakest link. But the overall hypothesis comes a tun multiple lines of evidence. He is performing tests on the filliabres of carbon and oxygen in the meteorite to see if they suggest past organic activity. He hopes to reby some terrestrial bacteria, port the results next March.



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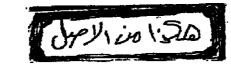
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bitter war between British Airways and Virgin Atlantic



£20,000 'Dirty Tricks' libel victory for the man they call The Streetfighter

Michael Streeter

Tens

Public-relations consultant Brian Basham yesterday won £20,000 libel damages plus costs over a book on the bitter war between British Airways and Virgin Atlantic, which he said depicted him as a "professional liar".

A High Court jury unani-mously agreed that the book Dirty Tricks, written by the television journalist Martyn Gregory, wrongly portrayed Mr Basham as a "peddlar" of untruths at the centre of the "dirty

tricks" campaign against Virgin. For a butcher's son from South London, a man who is known in his trade as The Streetfighter and who has a long in effect, Mr Basham had not list of big-name former or current clients - including Lord Hanson, Mohamed Al Fayed. Robert Maxwell and the President of Malawi - it was one ident of Malawi – it was one paid Mr Branson and its rival of his most satisfying victories airline a total of £610,000 in libel

prominence in the yuppie Eighties as a master exponent of what he called pro-active PR. -and what critics dubbed "negative PR" - admitted the allegations had hung over him

awarded costs - estimated at

The case had its origins against a backdrop of BA's concern over

يعرفانه

Virgin inroads into its business

£400,000 - against Mr Gregory and publishers Little, Brown, and the verdict now raises the possibility of more legal actions against the book by BA and its associates. Lawyers acting for BA were in court throughout the case, as were solicitors acting for Marks & Spencer, which has issued a writ against a television programme Mr Gregory made for World In Action on child labour in Morocco.

The publishers were also ordered to stop any further distribution of Dirty Tricks. After the four-week, sometimes acrimonious hearing, Mr

Basham, 52, who runs his own public relations company, War-wick Corporate, said he was "delighted" to have cleared his name. "A penny damages would have satisfied me," he said.

Mr Basham also revealed that he is considering reporting the defence barrister Ronald Thwaites QC to the Bar Council for his "outrageous" attack on him during closing speech-es, in which the PR man was described variously as "wicked". "evasive", "slippery" and a

It was a complete abuse of privilege, almost more than flesh can bear, said Mr

The PR consultant, who was sacked by British Airways after being "thrown to the wolves" over the Virgin affair, is also to write a book about his experiences, provisionally enutled Dicky Business - a phrase which cropped up, ironically, in

film producers to turn Dirty Tricks into a movie - with suggestions that Kevin Costner should play the Branson role are now likely to be shelved.

Mr Gregory, an award-winning documentary maker, was visibly upset after the verdict. "It's a very, very sad day for investigative journalism - and the British establishment has once again gathered around one of its own.

He said they were considering an appeal which he was "confident" would be successful. They had denied the libel, pleading justification.

The decision by the jury that, engaged in dirty tricks, raises new questions about the BA/Virgin battle, which culminated in January 1993 when BA to date.

damages and up to £4.5m costs.

Mr Basham, who rose to At the time Mr Basham was named in a court statement and, in his words, was made a scapegoat for the company's actions against Virgin.

One experienced observer of the saga said: "If Mr Basham was not involved in dirty tricks, Mr Justice Ian Kennedy as the verdict says, then who

of rising concern, if not paranoia, in BA about Virgin Atlantic and Richard Branson, the man they dubbed "the grinning pullover", and his ability to make serious inroads into their

Mr Basham, who had been retained by British Airways as a consultant from 1985, was said in Dirty Tricks to have played a central role in the campaign, by spreading rumours to journalists about supposed shortcomings in Mr Branson's airline and his other businesses, in an apparent bid to deter investors.

There were three main areas of contention in the case; first, the compilation of a report by Mr Basham on the Virgin chief and his companies in 1991, pointing out among other matters that Mr Branson's association with the gay nightclub Heaven was risky for a man seeking investors. The report was then leaked to selected journalists. There followed two meetings with journalists, one with Chris Hutchins, a gossip columnist on the now defunct Today, the other with Nick

Rufford of the Sunday Times. He was taped telling Mr Hutchins about rumours of infected needles found in bins outside the nightclub and the apparent availability of drugs there, and about how he would not let his wife fly Virgin Atlantic - implying safety con-cerns. He also told Mr Rufford of other rumours that Mr Branson was forced to pay cash in

advance for his airline's fuel. Mr Thwaites told the court that in describing these matters, the book had not "wronged" Mr Basham but had "exposed" him. Though it had not accused the PR consultant of lying, it had suggested that he passed on stories about Virgin not knowing

if they were true. But the jury accepted the claim made by Mr Patrick Mil-mo QC, for Mr Basham, that the account was "one-sided, partial,

Dramatis personae

(Left to right) Martyn Gregory, author of Dirty Tricks, Virgin chief Richard Branson, and Kevin Costner who was suggested as a possible Branson for the film of the book

Discussions with Hollywood embroidered and distorted, insults, but "not the accusation and in effect portrayed Mr Basham as a "peddlar of lies." The Branson report - called Operation Barbara - had been fair and balanced, Mr Milmo said,

and his client had been "set up" by at least one of the journalists, whom he had urged to check the stories independently. His client could ignore most

that he was a professional liar."
added Mr Milmo. Mr Basham said in court:"I would very happily sacrifice my

to be true." The defence did not seek to

ter Mr Al Fayed's family history during his bid to take over the Knightsbridge store, Harrods. As well as running Warwick Corporate, Mr Basham, who is contract rather than spread twice-married, runs a private

company providing health care for the elderly. His work for the stories which I did not believe

last year. Mr Basham began his career

in newspapers as as a copy boy on the Daily Mail and later worked on the Times before moving into business PR in the Seventies, where he quickly es-Royal British Legion, much of tablished a reputation for being justify claims made in the book it unpaid, recently received an a clear-headed, tough operator, glamourous living and expensive out the input that Mr Basham had helped alaward for encouraging the reequally at home with financial cars. Despite himself describing try," he said.

- journalists. He helped to build up Broadstreet Associates. a powerful Eighties PR consultancy before selling out and

At the peak of his career he combined an image of ruthlessness and hard work with

- and hearing his like called "shabby" by Mr Thwaites, Mr Basham is in no doubt of the value of his trade.

"Nowadays, neither newspamanagers could function with-





Childhood friends: Lined up at the House on the Hill Toy Museum at Stansted, Essex, are, from left, the favourite toys of MPs Gillian Shephard, Michael Howard, John Redwood, Glenda Jackson and (tiny bear) Teresa Gorman. On show from 27 December to end of January Photograph: David Rose

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Sex offender register under critical gaze

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

The planned national register of convicted sex offenders and moves to prosecute so-called sex. tourists were finally introduced by the Government yesterday in a parliamentary Bill. But details of how the register will work in practice are still far from settled, and penal experts warned that it could have little impact on the actions of paedophiles.

The promised Bill, which

had been left out of the Govhad been len out of the Gov-ernment's programme until the Labour leader, Tony Blair, chal-lenged John Major to include it, says that those convicted or cautioned in respect of specified sex offences (including rape and buggery) who fail to register their address and any change of name or address with the po-lice would be guilty of an of-fence. The maximum penalty would be a fine of £1,000 and/or

up to a month's imprisonment. Registration would last for a um of five years for offenders receiving non-custodi-al sentences and for life in cases of custodial sentences lasting 30 months and more. An extension of the jurisdiction of

Labour's

plans for

human

rights

The plans fall a long way short of a domestic Bill of

Act of Parliament for being in breach of convention rights.

A consultation document

published yesterday gives no guarantee that even Parliament

would make a change in law fol-

lowing an adverse roling. It says: Where, after due process

UK legislation is ultimately

found to be in breach of the ECHR, consideration will need

to be given by the government of the day and Parliament as to

hat action should be taken."

conflict are sown by a propos-

al that Parliament should be en-

titled to pass Acts specifically derogating from the convention.

These two provisions could

mean that the most controversial claims would still have to be pressed all the way to the Eu-

ropean Court of Human Rights

On the plus side, Jack Straw,

shadow home secretary, and Paul Boateng, shadow minister

for the Lord Chancellor's De-

partment, have proposed in

the paper a fast-track route to the higher courts for prompt de-

cisions on unusually difficult or

to Strasbourg can only be brought be individuals or

groups who are victims of al-

leged violations. Labour would

broaden the range of potential claimants by including:

Individuals seeking to vindi-

cate the broader public interest

in constitutional government

■ Pressure groups who believe

their cause may be prejudiced

Representative group interests whose collective interests

may be disadvantaged.

Claims under the convention

controversial issues.

in Strasbourg.

Further seeds of potential

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

the Philippines for child sex. the Philippines for child sex. a secretary of the Association of A consultation paper on the Chief Officers of Probation, operation of the register had said. To make a register the centern expected with yesterday's tre-piece of a policy to protect Bill, but the Home Office minimum could be a mistake. Only ister David Maclean made it, a faction of active sex offenderary yesterday that concerns a said and the convicted. We about how it should be used had a line never objected to a regisnot been resolved and that conv.

mous difficulties if one was to know offenders take the information that they is the police have on computer and try eral secretary of the National to publish that more widely in Association of Probation Offithe community. There is a dan- cers, said there was a danger that

The potential for vigilante reaction was raised in the summer when the Bournemouth Evening Echo launched a "Protect our Children" campaign and pledged ≈ tary of the British Association of to publish the names and ad—Social Workers and secretary of ses of convicted paedophiles. in Dorset. There was also talk of London, if one convicted paedophile was allowed to return to '

the area on release from prison.
The Bill received overall support from the Association of Chief Police Officers, which will advise the Home Office on im-United Kingdom courts aims to the shadow Home Secretary, lem and seek treats deter paedophiles travelling to pledged Labour's co-operation. gramme, he said.

not been resolved and that connet; but only as a part of a syssultation would continue.

ten that balances vigilance over He told BBC Radio 4's To- children with the systematic

the public would be lured into

go to ground," he said.
David Colvin, Scottish secre Action on Child Exploitation, and warned of the need for a system "under which the person could challenge, using the legal test of balance of probabilities, what is on the register". Including suspects on the register could be one way of persuading plementation, and Jack Straw, the shadow Home Secretary, them to step denying their prob-lem and seek treatment on a pro-

Tories fooled Labour, Individuals and pressure groups would be able to challenge the Government on a wide range of public interest issues under Labour's plans to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into British law. The plans fall a long way Callaghan claims

Anthony Bevin: Political Editor Rights, however, while the par-ty has fudged a key issue by avoiding discussion of whether senior British judges should be empowered to strike down an

The Labour leadership has become a victim of Tory brain-washing, the former prime minister James Callaghan complains in a New Statesman in-

terview today.

He was chancellor of the exchequer, home secretary and foreign secretary before be-coming Labour's last prime minister in 1976, and argues that it is not true to suggest there is anything new in Labour's tough line on crime. As Tony Blair is credited with turning the tables on the Tories with his sound-bite "tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime,' Lord Caliaghan's attack could be taken as a rare swipe against

the new leader. But he tells the New States nan: "I listened to what our people in the cities and housing estates were having to put up with. I remember Each Hef-fer, who was on the left of the party, exploding with anger when anyone suggested we ought to be soft on these matters. I was seen as being on the right of the party, so we formed an odd alliance.

There are a number of myths about the way we be-haved which have been promulgated by the Conservative government and which some-how our own scople, our spokesmen, have some to accept." For good measure, Lord Callaghan adds: "They seem to have been brainwashed by Conservative propaganda as every-one else has been."

In fact, according to NOP poll data, the Conservatives ied by 45 per cent to Labour's 23 per cent when people were asked in 1979 which party had the best law-and-order poli-cies, compared with a Labour lead of 26 per cent to the



Tories' 20 per cent last June. Lord Callaghan also warns against any attempt by Mr Blair learn from the backge to break the relationship be- the party before they tween Labour and the unions, saving he would be "very opposed" to that.

"I suspect most party members would agree," he says. "It is part of our heritage and it is instinctive in the party and movement that we should keep the link. Anyone who doesn't believe that doesn't understand our history or the natural foun-

dation of our party."
While Lord Callaghan makes
no reference to the leadership, which is where the threat to the union link is coming from, he tries to clock his criticism by suggesting, curiously, that it is being posed by inexperienced comers not steeped in the party's traditions.

"I do hope new ; bers will read the his any conclusions too Now there are many pa members who, by family instinct, understand then of the Labour Party, with roots are. There, in this I'm confident that the foom i manoeuvre for our spices new recruits would be lis

Lord Callaghan also there is a danger that Mr I could be biting off more the can chew with his program for constitutional reforms that he should not think of ing immediate action ag House of Lords. "I think the sohition is to lay out a five year rather than tackle every issue at.

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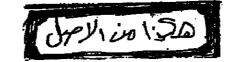
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City police tighten security ring

Armed road blocks multiply amid growing fears of an IRA Christmas bomb campaign

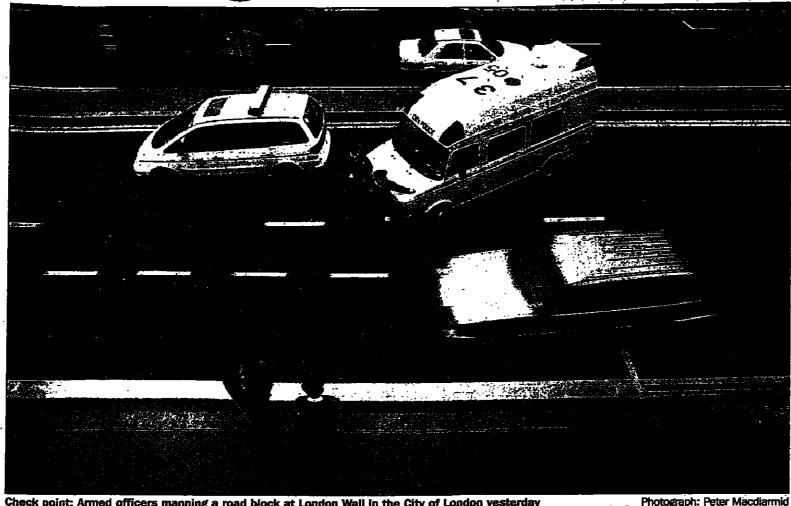
Charlie Bain

On London Wall in the heart of the capital's financial centre. seven officers from the City of London Police's armed response unit are screening vehicles at a road block. Two of them are have semi-automatic rifles. One has a German Shepherd straining at the leash.

Around the corner, at one of the eight entry points on the City's "ring of steel" security cordon, a uniformed officer flags down a light blue Ford Transit van. The driver fumbles nervously with some bright pink invoice papers and gives his name, destination and employer. On a mast above him are two cameras, one trained on his number plate, the other on his passenger seat. After about 45 seconds he has moved on. Such scenes have been com-

monplace in the square mile of the City this week as security forces are on full alert amid growing fears of an IRA Christmas bombing campaign. Yes-terday, the police presence was particularly apparent. At a number of entry points, officers were stopping traffic regularly and armed roadblocks were set up at random.

Since the end of the ceasefire in February, we have to take the threat of a terrorist attack seriously and at the moment I perceive that threat to be very



Check point: Armed officers manning a road block at London Wall In the City of London yesterday

high," Commander Judy Davison of City of London Police said. "The City is a vulnerable place and the prevention of terrorism is our number one priority." The security cordon was

erected in July 1993 in re-

sponse to the IRA bomb in Bishopsgate which triggered one of the highest-profile police operations in Britain for decades. The road checks are only a small part of the City of

siderable effect on the quality of life for residents and workers. Since 1993 there has been a 16 per cent drop in all types of crime. At the same time, traf-London Police's security ini- fic levels have been reduced and

the streets are safer to cross and less filled with exhaust fumes. The weapons employed against terrorism are an effective mixture of camera technology Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

eras photograph the number plate of every vehicle and the face of every driver. Another 13 snap vehicles leaving the City and 47 at key points enable police to track suspicious vehicles. There are also 1,265 private

cameras manned by security guards ready to alert police at the slightest hint of danger. This Camera Watch scheme came into being after a private closed circuit television camera detected the Bishopsgate bombers walking towards the Bank of England after parking the truck packed full of explosives. "We suddenly realised we could have access to hundreds more cameras if we contacted these businesses and worked with them," Chief Inspector Chris Wheeler, the force's crime prevention officer, said.

This month, the Corpora-tion of London amounced that it would extend the ring of steel early next year to cover 75 per centrof the city in February work will begin on installing a new sys-temenabling came as not only to sead vehicle manber plates but to check them against oth-

er data within four seconds. Chief Superintendent Paul Eskriett, head of operational support for the force, says that there is no room for compla-cent secure. But we have the advantage of a relationship with the built up over a period of time ... Our job is to stop anyone from getting killed and I hope we can

THE INDEPENDENT/NSPCC Victims of Abuse Appeal

Child's play that helps wounds heal

A seven-year-old boy spent six weeks crafting his clay pot, then smashed it to smithereens. It may sound like a futile exercise, but making and breaking is all part of a valuable healing Pottery is just one of the many play techniques employed

at the Doncaster Therapeutic Centre, a project funded by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children The first batch of sexually

abused children embarked on the therapy programme last May. Many are now showing signs of coming to terms with their painful pasts.

Christine Furness, the pro-

ject's senior practitioner, is de-lighted with the results. "We get feedback from the children themselves and the parents that they are more able to relax. which is really important," she said. "A lot of the kids are very stressed out, pretending to be OK, when inside they don't feel OK. But after a while, stress-related ailments such as headaches and tummy aches calm down, they are more able to make friends and keep them, and they begin to feel com-fortable talking to people."

The children - aged between 3 and 16 - are referred to the Doncaster projects via social services, after discussion with the family. The therapist is frank with the child, as Ms Furness explained. "We say: 'We know you've been sexually abused. We're sorry about that, but you can't change that. What we can do perhaps is to

provide some space and help you to look at some of the feelings that that has left you with'."
The one-to-one play sessions

help children who have suffered sexual abuse to learn to "live in the present and for the future". Ms Furness said: "It's a place where they can actually feel and do things that they wouldn't be able to do in a normal life situation. A small child might want to play with the dolls in a way that gets rid of its feelings. An older child might want to talk like an adult or do two things at once. They might ing, so they don't have to look

into the eyes of the therapist."
The play is always "child-led".
And each child behaves differently. Some are "controllers", others "victims". "A child might say: Tim angry. I'm upset. I'm disgusted. I can't concentrate. People are out to get me'," said Ms Furness

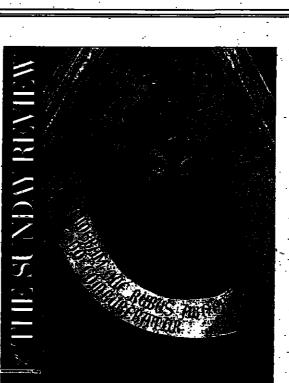
"But a lot of the playing is very caring, perhaps in the way the children would like to have been cared for or protected themselves. Alternatively, there might be a lot of happy drawings, as if to say this is how life should be.' Some of the children obviously have an idealised view of life."

After 13 one-hour weekly ssions, there is a review. So far, all 74 of the children who have participated in the project have signed up for a further 13 sessions. The centre is already

bursting at the seams, with a long waiting list.

This year, the *Independent*'s Christmas Victims of Abuse appeal is in support of the who have suffered from abuse. Any money you donate will go towards expanding the Don-caster Centre, to help increase the number of children it helps, provide extra play equipment, develop group work and follow-





Every age has its prophets: thinkers or agitators whose ideas shape civilisation for a generation or more. Who will be the voices of the new millennium? Our guide identifies 40 key thinkers with followings

Each month, more than 1,000 works of art around the world are reported stolen. Only a small fraction of them are ever recovered. Geraldine Norman explains why; and tells the stories of the paintings on

Interpol's 'Most Wanted

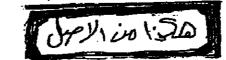
Works of Art' register



Tis the night before Christmas, and the chairman of Marley de Zoet Scrooge is planning a little downsizing... Don't miss Martin Rowson's radical variation on A Christmas Carol

Plus: a new short story by Steven Heighton





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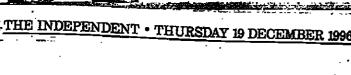
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School bullies destined for life at the top

Glenda Cooper

School bullies are clever, cold and manipulative - and could well grow up to be the captains of industry, the British Psychological Society was told yester-

Far from being stupid, oafish and lacking in social skills, "cold, effective bullies" tended to be more capable of under-standing other people's minds than other children and were highly manipulative, according to Jon Sutton, a researcher at Goldsmiths College, south Lon-don. But with the right kind of channelling, he said, these skills could be put to legitimate use, and bullies could become

successful in future life. Mr Sutton added that antibullying strategies, used by many schools, may actually make matters worse by training bullies to be more efficient

manipulators of their victims. With his colleague Professor Peter Smith, Mr Sutton examined 72 children aged between seven and 10 from three schools in south-east London. The children were given stories designed to probe their cognitive and emotional understanding. Scores were obtained depend-

about the stories.

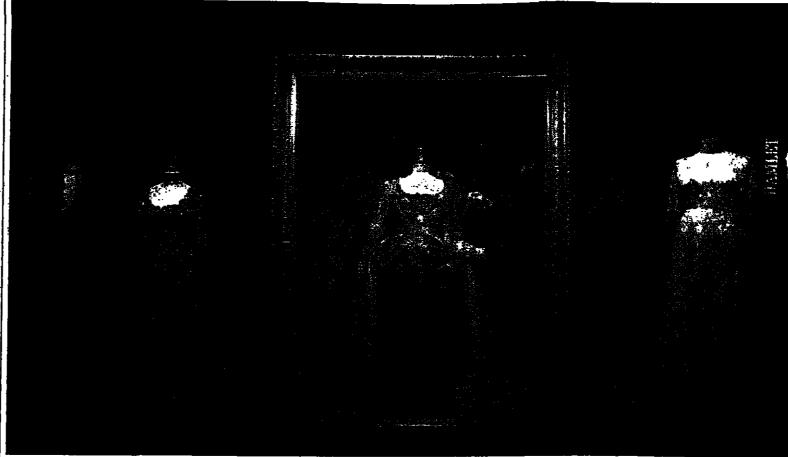
"What we generally found was that the bullies scored highly, but not when it came to emotions," said Mr Sutton. He added that a high level of skill in understanding and manipu-lating the minds of others, without emotional input could be "a very frightening prospect in a school environment

But he maintained that used properly, the skills bullies had could help them in future life. "In some respects bullies may be superior to other children," he said. "Someone who can understand people's minds and manipulate them in this way would make a very good manager at most levels. It would be interesting to give a group of managers a questionnaire and find out if any of them were bullies at school.

He said bullies were statistically four times more likely than other children to become criminals, but while psychopaths also had "cold cog-nition" this did not mean that bullies necessarily had psycho-pathic tendencies. Like bullies, psychopaths failed to respond to other people's feelings, but this was because of a lack of

Mr Sutton said present antibullying strategies may do more harm than good. Helping the bully have a better under-standing of his victim may be misguided and could even help to make the situation worse. "Bullies are already very good at understanding their victim and using this approach could make them even better bullies,"

more of the "defenders", children who stood up for the victims of bullying and who are often very popular members of the class. "It would seem a good idea to empower that silent majority to break the cir-



Seamless narrative: Geraldine McEwan's gown for a production of Congreve's Way of the World being prepared for a charity auction at cle of bullying," said Mr Sutton. | Sotheby's last night of costumes from the Royal National Theatre's Archive, worn by many of Britain's greatest actors

Abattoirs flout mad-cow rules

Chief Political Correspondent

Four abattoirs have been fined sums of less than £10,000 for failing to apply safety rules introduced to curb the spread

of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. The Ministry of Agriculture confirmed in a report that rules are still being broken in spite of efforts to eradicate the disease. which claimed its thirteenth victim with the death of Vicky Lowther, 19, from Carlisle.

Gavin Strang, Labour's agri-culture spokesman, said: "The filed bovine offal (SBO); an levels of the fines seems to be abattoir called Bakers was fined account the size of the business involved." Evidence of continuing failures will increase pressure for responsibility for food safety to be taken out of the hands of Maff, which acts as both sponsor and policeman for

the agriculture industry.

Ms Lowther died from the new strain of CJD linked to "mad cow" disease. The Maff report said at least one more case has been notified in Britain, and another in France. dard of control has been high

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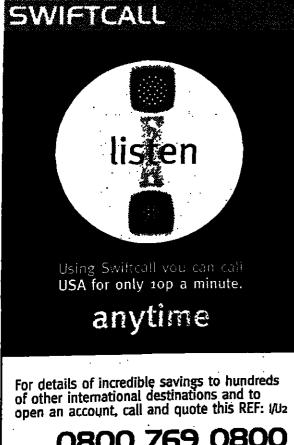
pf. Leste

It is thought Ms Lowther contracted CJD from eating meat, possibly from beef burgers.

The report shows there were 16 breaches of regulations in January, 18 in February, 10 in March, four in April, three in June, four in July, five in August, one in September, and three in October, the last month for which the figures are available.

The agriculture minister Tim Boswell told MPs in an answer to a written question that there have been four prosecutions this £2,000 costs for failure to stain, and failure to separate SBO; another abattoir run by a man called Kellow was fined £1,500 and ordered to pay £1,050 for similar offences; Stillmans (Somerset) was fined £7,500 and ordered to pay £3,000 costs for similar offences; and Blackpool Abattoir was fined £3,000 and ordered to pay £1.818 in costs. The report insists that in spite of the breaches, the stan-





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Cruel facts of life in brutal world

Humanitarian I idealists in the line of fire

Christopher Bellamy

The killing of six International Red Cross staff in Chechnya has spurred new efforts to draw up ple working for humanitarian

At present, there is no common database listing who is do-ing what and where. Some of the non-governmental organi-sations (NGOs) are large, highly professional groups. Others are small and well-meaning but sometimes naive, and vulnera-ble to casualties from drugged, drunken gunmen or road accidents. But, as the Chechen massacre shows, even the professionals are not always safe.

The people who work in the field are mainly young - in their twenties and thirties. Many are medically trained, but there are also logisticians, engineers, even architects, like one of the Red Cross workers killed in Chechnya. They work hard and play hard. They are, perhaps, the modern equivalent of volunteers who went to Spain and fought in the Civil war.

The proliferation of agencies has given rise to demands for regulation, both for their own protection and to avoid duplication of skills. British Overseas NGOs for Development -Bond - has 145 agencies based in the UK registered as members. A new project, People in Aid, is trying to promote a code of practice, to be published next year which would facilitate greater co-ordination between NGOs. The draft code of practice stresses that individual workers are the key, that field staff must be consulted by management, and that they should

support. The last principle is security.

The work of relief and development agencies often places great demands on staff in conditions of complexity and risk," the code says - something

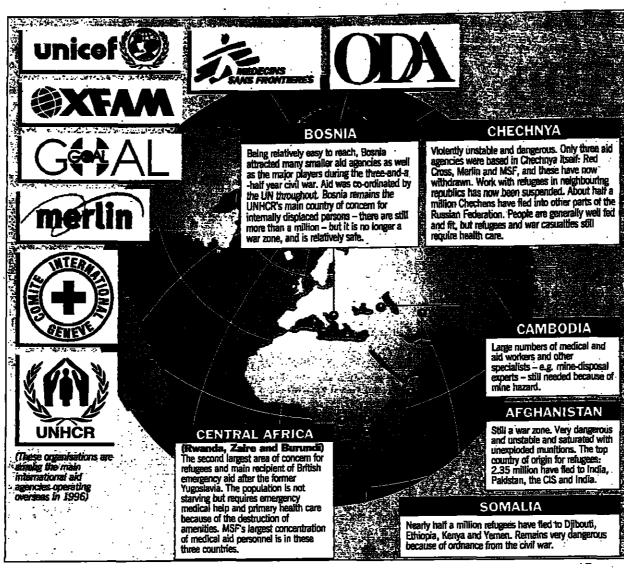
The greatest concentration of NGOs in recent years has been in Bosnia, because it has been prominent in the media and is relatively easy to reach. Conditions away from the immediate battlefronts were relatively civilised. Only the bigger, more professional organisations have operated in the much more demanding conditions of the former Soviet Union, Somalia, central Africa and Cambodia.

The Red Cross, which lost six workers in Chechnya - the worst massacre in its 132-year history - on Tuesday morning was the original NGO. Henri Dunant, its Swiss businessman founder, hastening to do busi-ness with Napoleon III of France, stumbled on the dreadful aftermath of the Battle of Solferino in June, 1859, when French and Austrian armies had collided in northern Italy.

He organised emergency aid services for the wounded of both sides and later proposed the formation of voluntary relief societies in his book, Un Souvenir de Solferino, of 1862.

The Red Cross, jealous of its independence, is the NGO most associated with operating in war zones. Its prime duties are protection of prisoners of war and civilians in time of war, and it acts as an intermediary between warring states or warring parties within a country.

The only agencies operating in Chechnya were the ICRC.



(MSF), and the British agency, Merlin (Medical Emergency Relief International). All pulled their teams out of Chechnya yesterday, though they remained in neighbouring republics. MSF typifies the front-line

aid agencies, concentrating on the areas where war casualties are highest. In July, it had 85 expatriate staff and 526 local staff in Afghanistan: corresponding figures in other hot spots were 92 and 1300 in Liberia; 71 and 1740 in Burundi; 86 and 794 in Angola; 111 and 1429 in Rwan-

da; and 89 and 878 in Zaire. NGOs often work under the umbrella of the UN, usually the

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), but also the UN Children's Foundation, UNICEF, the World Health Organisation and the World Food Programme.

Britain's Overseas Develop-ment Agency (ODA) also plays an active role in the field. ODA drivers trucked aid to central Bosnia and Sarajevo throughout the civil war. In the past three years, most of Britain's emergency aid has gone to the states of the former Yugoslavia £38m last year, followed by Angola and Rwanda. Overall, most emergency aid - 46 per

Killed in pursuit of the truth

Aid agencies. pull out after workers shot

All the main international aid agencies were yesterday with-drawing staff from Chechnya in protest at the brutal killing on Tuesday of six foreigners working for the International Committee of the Red Cross in the troubled Caucasian region.

Russian politicians and Chechen separatist leaders alike condemned the night-time shooting of the medics as they slept in their hospital and vowed that the incident, evidently a political provocation, would not be allowed to disrupt the region's tentative progress to peace.

The bodies of the aid workers - five women, from Norway, Canada, Spain and New Zealand, and one man from The Netherlands - were moved initially to Nalchik in neighbouring Kabardino-Balkaria after the attack by unknown gunmen, who stole nothing from the hospital. Some 70 surviving Red Cross workers also left, heading ultimately for Switzerland and their home countries, and the hospital in the Chechen village of Novye Atagi was abandoned to the locals.

Yesterday, other aid agencies were evacuating staff through Nazran in Ingushetia, another of the tiny ethnic republics on Russia's southern rim.

"We have suspended our activities in Chechnya in solidarity with our ICRC colleagues, said Aleth Jaurou of Medecins sans Frontières, whose doctors were among the first to reach the region after the Russian military intervention two years ago

The United Nations High

also froze its work with some 80,000 people displaced in the two-year conflict, which has killed tens of thousands.

Local doctors were distressed by the departure. "It will be a big catastrophe for us," said Lyuba Archakova, head doctor of Hospital Number Four in the Chechen capital, Grozny, "We just don't have the resources to help people. The foreign aid organisations were bringing us all our equipment and medicine." President Boris Yeltsin con-

tinues to convalence after his heart operation in November but Russia's Prime Minister, Viktor Chemomyrdin, lost no 🍎 time in denouncing the shooting, the worst ever single attack on the ICRC. "The Russian gov-ernment appreciates the humanitarian activities of the Red Cross and decisively condemns this cruel and senseless crime."

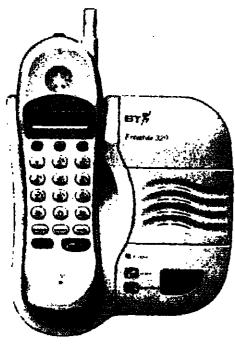
Roslan Katuyev, a minister in the separatist coalition running Chechnya now that Russian troops are leaving, called the at-tack "an intentional and planned provocation aimed at cancelling our elections for a president and parliament". The vote is set for 27 January.

A fragile peace was achieved this autumn after Moscow and the Chechens agreed to shelve for five years the highly sensi-tive issue of whether the region should have full independence from Russia. But both sides speak of a "third force" seeking to derail the peace process. Chechens suspect the motives of hardliners in the Russian military and security services while the Russians worry that moo erate separatists such as Aslan Maskhadov and Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev cannot control their militant former comrades.

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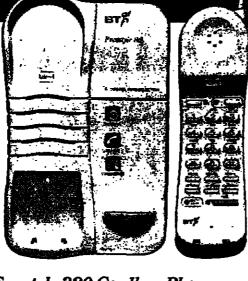
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How the 'genius' of a tiny band of terrorists eclipsed the Shining Path

Phil Davison. Latin America Correspondent

Peru's Tupac Amaru guerrilla group had long lived in the shadow of the larger, more fa-mous Sendero Luminoso (Shin-

Japanese diplomatic reception in Lima surpassed any of Shining Path's terrorist operations.

"It was a work of genius, the perfect target at the perfect time," said a senior European diplomatic hardware the fiderate to the perfect time and the perfect time and the perfect time are the perfect time." diplomat who did not attend the reception at the Japanese ambassador's residence. He was referring to the fact that many

encouraged by President Alberto Fujimori, himself of Japanese origin. "And to get so many dips [diplomats], govern-ment members, Japanese businessmen and other bigwigs ing Path). Not any more. In its daring, planning and execution, Tuesday's attack on a Japanese diplomatic reception

and the poor."
While Shining Path was always Maoist, the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, known in Spanish by its initials, MRTA, followed the ideals of Fidel Castro's Cuban revolution. The Peruvian military has long accused the Castro regime Peruvians have been increas-ingly critical of growing Japan-and training.

name of an Inca chief who resisted the Spanish conquistadores but was captured and executed in 1572. But the guerrilla group took the name

life sentence in solitary confinement. In June of that year, Tupac Amaru's leader, Victor Polay, was captured and is also now doing life. His release is one of the Lima assailants kev demands.

young New York woman.

Lori Berenson, was

or sympathisers detained in Lima. She was sen-

tenced to life by a "face-

less" military tribunal -

The group hit the head-

At their mercy: Holding a piece of white cloth, Michael Mining, president of the Peruvian Red Cross, enters the ambassador's residence to negotiate with the rebels Photograph: AFP

ing one-way mirror screens in

She was accused of helping plan a takeover of the Peruvian Congress, a plan which diplo-mats say may later have been adapted to Tuesday's attack on

the Japanese reception.
The hostage drama is a blow
to President Fujimori, whose
chief claim to popularity was that
he ended the long guerrilla
conflict. Although his popularity has been united. ity has been waning, he recent-ly persuaded Congress to accept a bit of legal sleight-of-hand a new interpretation of the constitution - which will let him run for a third five-year term in 2000. His authoritarian style and eagerness to cling to power have already shown signs of provok-

ing a resurgence of the left.
The Marxist guerrilla groups which fought or terrorised rightwing or military governments throughout Latin America for three decides most fizzled away as democracy took hold. But a tendency lowards power-hug-ging by Latin leaders shows signs of boosting sympathy with leftist, anti-government groups.

Mr Fujimori, Argentina's Carlos Menem, Brazil's Fer-nando Henrique Cardoso and among several members Ecuador's Abdala Bucaram are all talking of running again, even if it means tampering with their constitutions.

In Mexico, the Peoples Revarmy officers who keep their identity secret by usolutionary Army attacked official targets in the south this year.

significant shorts

Lagos bomb raises fears of unrest

A bomb exploded in Lagos, Nigeria's biggest city, critically wounding 12 soldiers and raising the prospects of a violent Christmas in the troubled nation. Witnesses said a bus carrying 60 soldiers was ripped apart by the bomb, planted in a refuse dump. It was the third bomb blast in Lagos in a month.

Kremlin still wary of Nato

Russia continued its opposition to Nato enlargement when its Defence Minister, Igor Rodionov, visited alliance headquarters in Brussels. and repeated Russian concerns that expansion would violate the "military-strategic balance". Christopher Bellamy

Prisoners take over jail

Nearly 3,000 prisoners took control of Bangladesh's western Jessore jail, demanding general amnesty and better conditions. The prisoners struck on Monday, when the nation was celebrating the 25th anniversary of independence from Pakistan. AP - Dhaka

Hooker Barbie hits the streets

While US shoppers pleaded for Holiday Barbies, stores here offered a more eclectic assortment, including Trailer Trash Barbie, Hooker Barbie and Drag Queen Barbie, and even let customers specify the number and location of body piercings.

AP - San Francisco

Havel pleads with deputy PM not to quit

The Czech President, Vaclav Havel, urged the Deputy Prime Minister, Jan Kalvoda, to reconsider his resignation after admitting lying about his qualifications Mr Kalvoda, who heads a junior coalition party, had claimed to be a doctor of law. He is one of several MPs discovered to have falsified CVs and the second

More Kenyan students die

Kenyan police shot dead two students during a riot at Kenyatta University, outside Nairobi. They were shot when police opened fire as students protested at the killing on Tuesday of a student at Egerton University, 125 miles from the capital. Reuter - Nairobi

Consumed with success

The Michelin guide, bible of gourmets across Europe, gave restaurants in Spain and Italy its coveted three-star rating. El Bulli, in Rosas, north-eastern Spain, and Don Alfonso 1890, in Sant Agata sui Due Golfi, near Sorrento, achieved the top rank, an honour enjoyed by 19 restaurants in France. euter – Paris

Train on the rampage

A train, operated only by a remote-controlled locomotive, and its 55 wagons ploughed through dozens of crossings, three stop signs and passed severa other trains before a train driver stopped them.

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Berlusconi learns to love his enemies

Andrew Gumbel

When Silvio Berlusconi first swept into Italian politics three years ago, his mission was "to save the country from the communists". These days, though, the people he calls communists - in reality the Social-Democrat successors to the old Communist Party known as the PDS - are some of the best friends

love affair might be exaggerat-

traction of mutual interests. With tensions growing within Italy's centre-left coalition govcrument, the PDS seems to find it easier to talk to Mr Berluscom and his party, Forza Italia, than it does to its own allies.

This week, under the influence of the PDS's canny leader Massimo D'Alema, the government cut what seemed to be an outrageous deal with Mr e has.

To call it a late-flowering the right to continue running his we affair might be exaggerate monopoly on private television

ing but there is definitely an at- for the next six months, even though the Constitutional Court has deemed it to be illegal. Ostensibly the reason for the deal was to give parliament time to draw up new legislation that would modernise the whole of the broadcasting sector, in-cluding cable and satellite.

But that on its own does not explain why Mr Berlusconi was so scrapniously consulted on the matter, and a blind eye so giaringly turned to the blatant conflict of interests. The nub of the matter is that the PDS is find-

ing it ever harder to keep the governing coalition together. The so-called "Olive Tree" stretches from the communist hard-left to the free-market right, an impossible clutch of customers to keep satisfied simultaneously when it comes to such key matters as the budgetcutting measures necessary to qualify Italy for European mon-

only by making big concessions efforts to push through a politics of high principle, and cross-party alliance cutting out

to the left, and keeping public spending cuts to a bare mini-mum, It, as an IMF forecast has predicted, the government comes under pressure to slash the budget further next spring, some part of the coalition is bound to give way. To stave off this looming crisis, the PDS is courting allies further afield. Mr change for some kind of Berlusconi is certainly not about to join the government, but he can be useful to Mr D'Alema in

Secondly, he can cooperate in overhanling the constitution to make Italy easier to govern. Further down the road, there might be room for further negotiation: support for further budget-cutting measures from Forza Italia, perhaps, in ex-

amnesty exonerating Mr Berinscom from the various The 1997 budget, which has can be useful to Mr D'Alema in charges of corruption and busialmost completed its passage other ways. First, he can agree ness malpractice that he is
through parliament, was sealed not to fillbuster parliament in its facing. This may not be the

including some members of the PDS. But it is a mark of the widely-acknowledged tactical brilliance of Mr D'Alema.

So far, Mr Berlusconi is playing along partly because it suits his own personal interests, and partly because he thinks he might yet be able to outwit Mr D'Alema. His allies are working hard on the hypothesis that the present government might fall next spring, and that a

backlog of important legislation. indeed it is infuriating a both the far left and the far right secondly, he can cooperate minority of left-wingers could then take Italy into Enrope and the next general elec-

> What is striking in all this is the erosion of the boundary between government and opposition - harking back to the old days of Christian Democrat hegemony in Italy. The notion of defeating one's enemy by inviting him in seems to be an enduring one in this country, and one that could yet save Mr Berlusconi from an ignominious exit from public life.

Official

Heated words in battle over bonus ends in Thai workers setting factory ablaze

Bangkok (AP) – Police were yesterday searching for ringleaders of angry workers who torched the headquarters and factory of a Japanese company in a dispute over year-end bonuses newspapers said.

At least 2,000 workers, many of them drunk, set fire to a compound of the Sanyo Universal Electric commany late on Tuesday night after bonus negotiations broke down. Workers who gathered in the fenced company compound threw rocks, whisky and beer bottles at the buildings and then started setting wooden debris, electrical appliances and refrigerators alight.

The fires spread to the buildings. More than 400 police were sent to the scene but were anable to stop the workers. Police said about 10 ringleaders were responsible for orchestrating the protest. According to the Ba

Post, the fire destroyed the company's eight-storey headquarters and a four-storey warehouse and plant where refrigerators. televisions and air compressors were being manufactured. It was believed to be the worst damage to a major firm in Thailand resulting from a labour

The Bangkok Post said the company's management had offered a bonus equivalent to three months of wages to its workers, rather than the 5.75month one it provided last year. Year-end bonuses are customary in Thailand but they are rarely as high as that



Towering inferno: Firefighters vainly spraying the flames which enguifed the Sanyo factory in Bangkok, torched by a mob of 2,000 angry workers.

Suicide of 'N Korea missionary'

Diane Targovnik

Tacoma, Washington State -Evan C. Hunziker, the man arrested in August and held for no note was found. three months by North Korea Mr Hunziker, 2 on spying charges, was found dead yesterday morning in a Korea when he illegally en-

body was found in a room at the Olympus Hotel. He had been shot once. The police added that

Mr Hunziker, 26, was arrested in late August in North

motel here - an apparent sui-cide, police said. Mr Hunziker's North Korea accused him of spying for South Korea. His relatives, however, maintained he had had a religious awakening while he was jailed in Anchorage, Alaska, and went to Asia to spread the word of his newfound religion.

at FBI 'spied Russia'

Rupert Cornwell
Washington

An FBI employee was arrested on spying charges yesterday. First reports said he had been working in counter-intelligence and had spied for the Russians for at least five years.

Justice Department officials said he was arrested at the FBI's training centre in Quantico, Virginia. He had been transferred to the centre, a less sensitive posting, after he fell under suspicion. The depart-ment described the arrest as a major development in a significant criminal case".

The apparent unmasking of a new spy came a month after the arrest of Harold Nicholson, a senior CIA instructor, on charges of passing the names of CIA officials to the Russians in exchange for \$180,000 (£110,000). He is the highest CIA official ever to be accused

of spying. Early accounts said the man arrested yesterday had worked at the FBI since 1983, and had specialised in "national security", in other words, counter-intelligence. He had apparently worked for the Russians "for more than five years butiless than 10". But it was not clear how serious was the information he had handed over, nor how much he had been paid. Another official said there appeared to be no link between him and Mr Nicholson.

Given the FBI's task of tracking down spies in the US, a turncoai agent would be a huge prize for the intelligence service of Russia or any other power. The last (and only) FBI employee accused of espionage was Richard Miller, jailed for life in 1986 for passing secrets to the Soviet Union.

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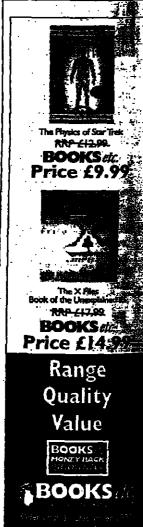
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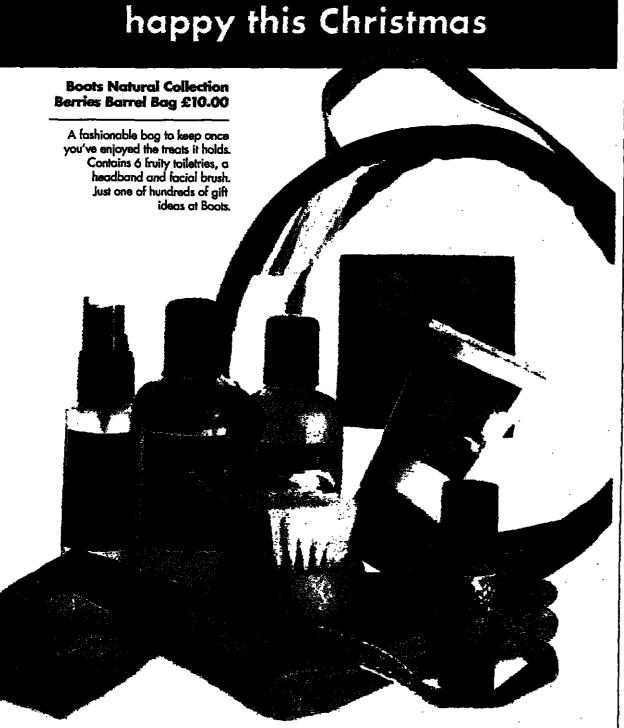
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The comparative speed with with Mr Nicholson was a light with Mr Nicholson wa was proclaimed as the di a new era of co-opera tween the CIA and the

For Louis Freeh, head FBL, and the bureau has the case is the latest in from its failure to pro tage as the cause of the sion of flight TWA 80 botched targeting of a Jewell as prime susper Atlanta bombing.

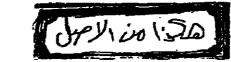




Make someone







international

Sheriff's man strides out as blizzard rages across the Badlands



Cyprus verdict stuns Turkey

Tony Barber Europe Editor

in a judgement with potentially far-reaching implications for the Cyprus dispute, the Euro-pean Court of Human Rights ruled yesterday that Turkey had violated the rights of a Greek Cypriot who lost access to her property after the 1974 Turkish invasion of northern Cyprus.

It was the first time an international court had held Turkey responsible for the conse-quences of its invasion, which isplaced of at least 160,000 Greek Cypriots from the northern third of the island.

"It is a great success. I believe its effects could be enormous, said President Glafcos Clerides, the Greek Cypriot who heads the internationally recognised state of Cyprus. "If we take into account those who were forced to leave their homes, then the effects could be even greater."

The Strasbourg-based court, an arm of the 40-nation Council of Europe, issued its judge-ment at a time when the United States, Britain and its European Union allies are intensifying efforts to make 1997 the year of a settlement of the Cyprus dis-pute. There was no immediate reaction from Turkey, but the prospect of a wave of Greek Cypriot legal claims stemming from the court's judgement may stiffen the resolve of the Turkish government and its

Landmark ruling may unleash wave of property claims on

Turkish Cypriot allies to maintain a hard negotiating stance. Since the Turkish invasion, Cyprus has become an island of two ethnically pure sectors, with only a handful of Greeks left in the north and almost no Turks in the south. Much Greek property in the north has end-

ed up in the hands of Turkish

troubled island

Cypriots or settlers from the Turkish mainland. The court ruled by 11 votes to six that Turkey had violated the rights of Titina Loizidou, a tourist guide, by denying her ac-cess to plots of land that she owned in the northern coastal resort of Kyrenia. She launched her case after being detained by Turkish Cypriot police in 1989 as she entered the Turkish-

controlled sector of Nicosia. Accompanied by a group called "Women Walk Home". Ms Loizidou was trying to draw attention to the fate of Greek Cypriots displaced from northern Cyprus in 1974. The Turkish Cypriot authorities later

insisted on her return to the Greek sector of Nicosia.

One vital element of the court's judgement was that Turkey, ruther than the self-proclaimed "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, was responsible for what happened to Ms Loizidou. Turkey, which keeps 30,000 troops in northern Cyprus and is the only country to recognise the TRNC, argued that it could not be responsible since the events took place out-

side the territory of Turkey. The Council of Europe said in a statement: "In the court's view, it was obvious from the large number of troops engaged in active duties in northern Cyprus that the Turkish army exercised effective overall control there. In the circumstances of the case, this entailed Turkey's responsibili-ty for the policies and actions of the 'TRNC".

The court dismissed Turkey's argument that it had no authority to consider the case since it related to events before 1990, when Turkey accepted the court's compulsory jurisdiction.

The court deferred judgement on Ms Lozzidou's claim for compensation and asked the Turkish government to submit its observations within six months. The court also dismissed her claim that she had lost her home, commenting that she had not been living in Kyrenia at the time.

EU agrees to keep tobacco subsidies

(Sarah Helm and Katherine Butler Brussels

> The European Commission yesterday rejected proposals to end subsidies to tobacco pro-ducers, saying that 200,000 workers are dependent on the funds. The decision provoked anger from the anti-smoking lobby, and caused divisions with-

in the Commission itself. Padraig Flynn, the social affairs commissioner, has called for abolition of the subsidies, arguing that the EU should not be supporting trade which leads to tobacco- related deaths. While the EU spends £800 million a year to support the producers, mostly in Italy and Greece, it is only spending £12 million a year ing, said Mr Flynn. He remind-Commission that smoking is now the biggest single avoidable

cause of death in Europe. However, the majority of commissioners supported a proposal from Franz Fischler, the agriculture commissioner, who said stopping the subsidies would directly affect 135,000 cer Leagues.

tobacco consumed in the EU is imported, the regime's abolition would merely lead to 100 per cent of EU tobacco demand being met by imports," said a

Commission statement The Commission did decide to reform its subsidies programme by targeting aid on higher-quality tobacco. on measures to combat smok- Proposals to consider strengthening cigarette packet health ed his colleagues on the warnings were also agreed, as were proposals to consider reducing tar and nicotine content.

right direction but it doesn't go anywhere near as far as we would have preferred," said Andrew. Hayes, of the Association of European Can-

dustry giant, mounted what EU officials described as an "incredible" campaign. It is understood the company even enlisted a number of former agriculture commis

put its case forward. While the industry may face new anti-smoking curbs through stricter labelling, and eventually measures to impose new limits on cigarette tar and nicotine content levels, tobacco growing subsidies will continue to benefit the cigarette makers.

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Irving Caesar

"I write fast", maintained the lyricist Irving Caesar.
"Sometimes lousy - but always

During his song life he dashed off the words for such standard songs as "Swance",
"Animal Crackers in My Soup",
"Just a Gigolo", "Is It True
What They Say About Dixie?" and "Tea for Two". The words of the last-named song were fluke: Caesar wrote them late one night as a "dummy lyric". just putting down the first came into his head to remind himself of the shape of Vincent Youmans's tune: "Picture you upon my knee, / Tea for two and two for tea, / Me for you and you for me, / Alone . . .

"I was going to write the real lyric in the morning," he said.
But while I was still asleep,
Youmans found what I'd scribbled, liked it, and that was that. In 1963 the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers selected "Tea for Two" as one of 16 songs making up its All-Time Hit

Irving Caesar wrote verse and song lyrics as a child, but trained as a stenographer at New York's City College. In that capacity, he worked with Henry Ford's doomed Peace Mission to Europe during the First World War. Towards the end of the war. Caesar returned to America to begin his songwrit-ing career. In 1918, when "Hindustan" was a popular one-step, he and George Gershwin met for lunch in New York to discuss future collaboration. Caesar suggested they write a one-step of their own, and the result was "Swanee", which

they completed within hours.
The following year, it was sung in the stage show at New York's newest cinema, the Capitol, and then danced to by 60 chorus girls with electric lights on their shoes. The song came into its own in 1918, when Al Jolson sang it in one of his legendary Sunday night concerts. The reaction was so enthusiastic, Jolson interpolated the song into his show Sinbad, after which his recorded version sold over two million copies.

The success of "Swanee" opened many doors for Caesar, but the songs he co-wrote for such shows as Morris Gest's Midnight Whirl and The Sweetheart Shop (both 1920) aroused little excitement. "Sixty Seconds Every Minute", which he and Louis Hirsch wrote for the 1922 edition of The Greenwich Village Follies, was a popular hit, but nothing he wrote for the next three editions of the revue was successful.

He had a hit with "Gigolette" music by Franz Lehar) in *An*dre Charlot's Revue of 1925. and a huge success that same year with his lyrics for No. No, Nunette, for which he and Vincent Youmans wrote such standards as "I Want to Be Happy", "Too Many Rings Around Rosie", "You Can Dance With Any Girl at All", the title song and, of course, "Tea for Two". A follow-up show les, les, Yvette (1927), which Caesar wrote with the composer Ben Jerome, ran only

40 performances. Caesar felt Yvette might have been a hit had be been allowed to interpolate "Sometimes I'm Happy" into the score, but Youmans, with whom he'd written the song, refused to allow this. In the spring of 1927, Caesar returned from a long stay in Europe to find New lork 17 December 1996. cock. Both were born in racist

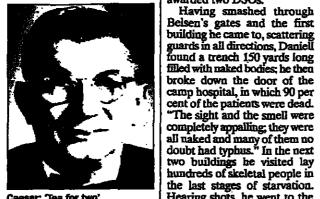
everyone whistling "Sometimes I'm Happy", which Youmans had interpolated into his then current musical Hit the Deck! without asking its lyricist's per-mission. "I gave Youmans two choices", Caesar remembered with satisfaction, "Get himself a new lyric for the song, or pay through the nose, giving me huge royalties for every single company of the show - and it was playing everywhere. The song was already a smash with my words, so I got the rovalties.

Although Here's Howe (1928) was a quick Broadway flop, it produced "Crazy Rhythm", a hig song with music by Roger Wolfe Kahn. Caesar also wrote with such composers as Victor Herbert, Sigmund Romberg, Rudolf Friml, and Oscar Lev-ant. With the latter, he wrote "Lady, Play Your Mandoline", which boasts the grisly line: "Señorita, sweet Chiquita, I could eat your heart".

In 1930 Caesar wrote ar

English lyric for "Schöner Gigo-lo", a Viennese melody. "Just a Gigolo" was recorded success-fully by Bing Crosby, Louis Armstrong and Vincent Lopez's orchestra and registed in the orchestra, and revived in the 1960s by the Louis Prima band.

In the mid-1930s Caesar worked with the composer Ray Henderson on two films for 20th Century Fox: George White's Scandals (1934, which produced Alice Faye's successful song "Oh, You Nasty Man!", and Curty Top (1935), which produced Shirley Temple's



even more successful "Animal Crackers in My Soup".

Although he never learnt to read music, Caesar also composed many children's songs. His instructional collections Sing a Song of Health, Sing a Song of Friendship and Sing a Song of Safety were widely used by schools across America. Recently he wrote a song called "Who Wants Marijuana?", and was still writing to the end. In 1995 his publishers announced that he had married

the previous year. The show Caesar was never allowed to forget was My Dear Public (1943), a "revusical story", which ran for only 43 performances, and received such notices as the New York Journal-American's "The piece is presented by Irving Caesar, who, even if you don't ask me, should be ashamed of himself", while the review in the Daily News bore the headline "Caesar is Buried, Not Praised". Caesar, who not only produced the show, but wrote all the lyrics and collaborated on the music and book, telephoned Ira Gershwin and asked frately, "Why is everybody blaming me?"

Dick Vosburgh Irving Caesar, bricist, composer, born New York 4 July 1895; died

The discovery of Belsen in stretching out to the distant horizon. Years later in the days of war the abil-April 1945 when he rammed his tank through the gates of the ity to become an unrecognisable ob-ject was to stand me in good stead. When man was bunting man, it was the first one who shot who survived. ity to become an unr camp was Robert Daniell's worst experience in a war in

Daniell passed out of the Royal Military Academy in 1920, second in his class, and after a period with the 1st Battery, Royal Artillery (The Blazers), during which he became an enthusiastic jockey, was posted to India, where Montgomery Belsen's gates and the first was his battery captain. He re-building he came to, scattering turned to England in 1928.

In 1929 he received his "jacket" and was posted to the 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery. Then followed a period of high days and holidays during which his horse won the Grand Military Gold Cup in 1933, and he rode to victory himself in the Gunner Gold Cup at Sandown twice, in 1934 and 1938. He became Adjutant of the Westmorland and Cumberland Yeomanny before rejoining his regiment late in 1937 and leaving for Palestine. Action started in January

1940 with the bastle of Sidi Barrani under Wayel which resulted in the sunsender of some, 35,000 Italian because Daniell was with a Barrely, 3rd Royal Horse Artillery. Not long afterwards he became second in into torthact on the wire by six Hitler. Youth, He shot four of them. Daniell was size that he never lost his self-paried, but that was the nearest he came to it. terwards he became second in command of the South Notts Hussars. In March 1941 they broke through German lines to enter Tobruk, and for 10 months

endured the siege. They returned to Cairo to refit. But in April 1942 the 22nd to the remaining gun that

new Mark VI tanks - when they advanced again from the west. With the last of the Churchill tanks in flames, Daniell faced four Mark VI tanks coming

straight for his guns. One suf-fered a direct hit and exploded. while the others opened up with heavy machine-guns which pierced the 25-pounder gun shields like paper, killing many of the South Notts men. The regimental padre, with four bullets in him, escaped with six wounded, while Daniell and three fellows lay as if dead. To their relief the tanks pessed them by.

Early in June 1942, after col-lecting what was left of his men and guns, Daniell was ordered forward from the Gazala Bir Hachem minefield, to put up a barrage in a futile attempt to discourage German movement northwards. Dawn broke as the regiment was topping a rise and they were met by a hail of shells. Gaught on a stony ridge, they became surrounded by German tanks. Casualties were heavy. Daniell and his men could not move, and their or-

dens were precise-stand and configuration fight where they were to the last included find a German staff car beside him with two generals in it. He leapt on to the running board but was dislodged when the staff officer hit him over the eye with his map case. All the vehicles were burning as he walked over ct Asa N armoured Brigade was no seemed infact. As a Mark VI apparent of an old buil elephant with the limitless African bush Regiments—now equipped with ner loaded the 25-pounder for Gendeman at Arms: Daniell in old age

Brigadier Robert Daniell Roscoe Harvey also came up with his 4th Light Armoured Brigade, and Daniell remained him and he fired at point-blank range. The tank was destroyed but Daniell had been seen and machine-gun fire was heavy. Daniell rolled into the smoke of with him until they reached the Baltic at Lübeck two years lat-er. The pursuit of Rommel was a burning vehicle as German into continue until May 1943 fantry overran the position. In when Timis was relieved and the an bour it would be dark, and North Africa Campaign was the noise of battle subsided. Unover. It was during that campaign that Daniell won his first DSO. touched. Daniell climbed into to his 8cwt truck, still miraculously serviceable, evaded four July 1943 he was given com-mand of the 13th HAC, RHA. Mark VI tanks and headed south for the open desert. The There was little time to prepare wheels were blown away by an for the invasion of which they 88mm machine gun, and a Ger-man sergeant shouted to him to were so soon to be a part. join his post. Daniell walked off-into the dark with his water bot-Only the toughest of fights enabled the 11th Armoured

> fire. Several days later, in very poor shape, he was picked up the sole survivor of the Bartle of the Cauldron, by Gerald Grosvenor, a friend, in his tank. After the battle of El Alamein Montgomery offered him

tie and the sergeant didn't open

Caen and Quatre Bras was taken in spite of heavy casualties. There was savage fighting close to Paris; then they swept on to the command of 3rd RHA



Photograph: Tom Pilston

On his return to England in

Division, commanded by Har-

vey, to break out from the Nor-

mandy beach-head. Operation

Goodwood got three armoured

divisions across the Orme near

tually Antwerp, averaging 53 miles a day. The advance into Holland, and on to Arnhem, was slower with lines of communication stretched to the limit.

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It was on 19 April 1945 that Daniell passed a group of buildings, some railway wagons, and an archway of laurels guarded by Romanians, Having earlier seen similar wagons in Normandy, when he had liberated a trainload of Jews bound for Germany, his suspicions were aroused and he asked Harvey for permission to investigate; he was given two hours. Driving his tank through the gate he discovered Belsen. It was the only concentration camp to be liberated by the British army.

Amiens and Brussels and even-

Although the campaign in northern Europe was shorter than in the desert the fighting was intense and fierce; here Daniell won his second DSO.

At last the division reached Lübeck. Orders were received to proceed to Kiel, and in one of the last acts of the war Bob Daniell single-handedly cap-tured the crew of the scuttled U-boat 141, whom he found hiding in a barn.

After the war he remained in the Army with commands in Norfolk and Kent, until he was appointed to the Sovereign's Body Guard in 1951. He served as a Gentleman at Arms for 20 years.

William de Segundo

Robert Bramston Thesiger Daniell, soldier: born London 15 October 1901; DSO 1943, and Bar 1944; (died 1994); died Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk 11 December 1996.

Eulace Peacock

It is one of sport's, indeed his-and segregated Alabama, and tory's, great might-have beens. and segregated north to detory's, great might-have beens. Had not a electrifying young black American sprinter and long-jumper badly torn his right hamstring in the spring of 1936, the Berlin Olympics that year might today be remembered not for the feats of Jesse Owens, but for those of Eulace Peacock.

which he saw front-line action

in North Africa, France (during the Normandy landings), Bel-gium, Holland and northern

Germany, and was promoted on

the battlefield three times, twice

mentioned in dispatches and awarded two DSOs.

building he came to, scattering guards in all directions, Daniell

found a trench 150 yards long filled with naked bodies; he then

broke down the door of the

camp hospital, in which 90 per

cent of the patients were dead.

"The sight and the smell were

hundreds of skeletal people in

the last stages of starvation.

Hearing shots, he went to the

perimeter where he found a

group of would-be escapees be-

Brought up in Anglesey and schooled in Norfolk, Bob Daniell

was very much a countryman:

The lure of the wild things, fur or feather, their ways and their cries re-mained with me all of my life. In the

heat of the Indian jungles I thrilled to the cough of a leopard, and later stood like a stone as the full-bodied roar of a hungry lion resounded

Having smashed through

The mid-Thirties were an earlier golden age of American track and field, and no rivalry was greater or more friendly than that of Owens and Pea-

erick Melchior, Baron von Grimm,

velop their talents - Owens to Ohio, Peacock to New Jersey, where in 1933 he set a state student long-jump record of 24ft 41 min that survived until 1977. But the pair's real fireworks

however came two years later. First, in the space of just 45 minutes during a college championship meeting on 25 May 1935, Owens turned himself into a global superstar by breaking five world records and equalling a sixth within the

"Round Robin: Christmas relay

National Portrait Gallery: Alfred Barnes and Susan Morris, "A 19th-

century Dessert: words of wit and wis-

talk", 1pm.

dom". I.10pm.

Air Force Board

Dinners

space of 45 minutes. He seemed weeks until the national amateur championships in July when Peacock first beat him in the 100 metres in a wind-aided world record time of 10.2 seconds, and then captured the long jump with a leap of 26ft 3m. That year, out of 10 track and

long-jump meetings with Owen, Peacock won seven, and in the 100 metres did not lose to him over the three years until his hamstring went, just before the 1936 Olympic trials. "What can

you do?" he said later. "I couldn't invincible - at least for six shed any tears, it happened and that was it ... Sure I was disappointed, but you can't spend your life thinking about what might have been." What might have been, in the view of his peers, was one if not both sprint titles in Berlin, and a second black athlete to destroy the Hitlerian

myth of Aryan supremacy. Although Peacock continued running with huge success after 1936, his moment was lost. The Second World War, in which he served as a Coast

jury's absence, whether two

previous convictions of the plaintiff could be put to him in

cross-examination. One, from

1980, was for unlawful wound-

ing, the other, from 1983, for

criminal damage. Both convic-

tions were spent for the pur-

poses of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 so that, by

virtue of section 4 of that Act,

they could not be admitted un-

less they fell within the excep-

tions provided for by sections

7 and 8. Section 7 provided:

(3) If at any stage in any proceedings before a judicial authority in Great

The judge allowed the evi-

dence to be admitted on the

ground that the plaintiff gave the impression of being well

spoken and respectable and in

the sport by officiating as a judge at athletics meetings.

owned a wholesale meat packing business in Harlem and the Bronx, before Owens died of lung cancer in 1980, Seven years later, Peacock was belatedly elected into America's 1914; died Yonkers, New York 13
Track and Field Hall of Fame, December 1996. years later, Peacock was belat-

Guard, prevented the Olympics but the last years of his life were of 1940 and 1944, and by the marred by Alzheimer's disease. time of the London games in Denied gold medals and the 1948, he was far past his best.
Thereafter he kept in touch with mous Olympics ever, his true role of hero at the most infalegacy is a tribute from Owens.
"Eulie, when we were running, Such was his friendship with I got to the point I couldn't beat Owens that the two jointly you. I could beat them all, but

not you."

Eulace Peacock, athlete: born

Spent convictions admissible in evidence

Police of the Metropolis; Court of Appeal (Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Saville) 28 November 1996

It was a matter for the discretion of the trial judge whether a plaintiff's spent convictions should be admitted in evidence under section 7(3) of the Re-habilitation of Offenders Act

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by the plain-tiff, Gabriel Thomas, against the decision of Sir Michael Davies, sitting as a High Court judge on 8 March 1995.

The plaintiff, a limbo dancer of considerable reputation, was arrested at 2 am on the morning of 28 May 1990, as he left the stage door after giving a charity performance at the London Arena in Docklands, before a judicial authority in Great Britain . . . the authority is satisfied, in the light of any considerations which appear to it to be relevant . . . that justice cannot be done in the case except by admitting or requir-ing evidence relating to a person's spent convictions . . . that authority may admit . . . the evidence . . . and was charged with threatening behaviour. He claimed he was subjected to abusive and racist remarks, brutally manhandled and arrested without lawful cause. The arresting officers denied this and denied

they had used excessive force. The plaintiff was tried for the offence of threatening behaviour and was acquitted. He then sued the police claiming damLAW REPORT

19 December 1996

ages for assault, damage to view of his convictions that erly take it into account when property, false imprisonment might leave the jury with a false and malicious prosecution. impression of his reliability At the trial of his action beand credibility. fore the judge and a jury, the question was raised, in the Lord Gifford OC and Paul Kishore

(Harris & Co. Southwark) for the plaintiff; Ionathan Loades (Metropolitan Police Solicitor) for the

Lord Justice Evans said that section 7(3) was expressed as truth lay. It was also his rea qualification to the general rule of exclusion in section 4(1) and there was a strong presumption against permitting cross-examination or admitting the evidence, but the section also emphasised that the discretion was a broad one.

The judge might take into account "any considerations which appear . . . to be relevant", and the overriding requirement was that "justice shall be done".

The question raised by section 7(3) had to be answered by the judge although it was not a matter of law, nor could it be answered by logic or by any process of reasoning alone. A negative answer would be required where the previous conviction was so obviously ir-

the case and to the moral standing of the witness that a reasonable jury could not propdeciding whether to believe

him or not. But the interests of justice were synonymous with a search for the truth, and the judge had to recognise that a reasonable jury might take a wide range of factors into account when deciding which witnesses to believe and therefore where the sponsibility to consider whether the likely significance of the fact of a previous conviction in the jury's eyes was such that they might be unfairly prejudiced against the witness in question.

If the evidence had any relevance, it had some potential for prejudice. The degree of relevance could be weighed against the amount of prejudice and other factors could be taken into account.

In the present case, the judge decided the jury should have a full picture of the plaintiff and his history, not limited by his deemed good character under section 4 of the act. His decision was a valid exercise of his discretion under section 7(3).

Paul Magrath, Barristet

Aunouncements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, MARRIMES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, in Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, in Memorians should be sent in writing to the Gaartie Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, triephaned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour massecring machine 0171-293 2012), and ner charged at \$6.50 n line (AAT extra). (ITHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, Furthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or fasted) and are charged at \$10 n line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

Wills Dame Catherine Mary Hall, of Buckfastleigh, Devon, General Secretary of the Royal College of Nursing 1957-82, left estate valued at £528,422 net. Nancy Leeson, of Sherfield English, shire, left estate valued at

£2,317,129 net. Aim Grove, of Wigan, Lancashire, left estate valued at 11,191,448 net. Constance Elizabeth Hope, of Whit-nes On Wie, Herelord, left estate valand at £3,740,551 net. She left £5,000 each to Whitney Parish Church and the Distressed Cientlefolk's Aid Aswenation, and £2,000 to Whitney Village Hall.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Patter of Michigany, Pattern For Cathedral Tract Studen of Michigany, Pattern For Cathedral Tract Studen of Michigal Cathedral Studends of the Temporal Michigany already of the Politycan-Pylaceta Michigany already a cell of the Tellipsylac-ter Lade Patter with and the Later in the Ma-ries Physics Michigany has many thank-tage Physics Michigany and the Later in the Ma-thedral Michigany and the Later Income of the day office.

Changing of the Guard ing therefold Cardio Mountai Karanan. Manatah Usan dikamada Helentanda.

Birthdays

Sir Antony Buck OC, former MP, 68: Mr Ross Buckland, chief executive, Unigate, 54; Mr Timathy Eggar MP, Minister of State, Trade and Industry, 45; The Right Rey Ian Harland, Bishop of Carlisle, 64: Brigadier Lewis Harris, cartographer, 86; Sir Brum Hill, tormer chairman, Higgs & Hill, 64; Mr Syd Little, comedian, 54; Mr Robert Ponsonby, former Controller of Music, BBC, 69; The Marquess of Queensberrs, former professor of ceramics at the Royal College of Art. 67: Dr David Bowe-Bedate, chairman, Welsh Develop-ment Agency, 59: Sir David Rowe-Ham, former Lord Mayor of London, 61; Lord Weir, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 65; Mr Jony Wheeler, founder, Lonely Planet travel guides, 50; Mr Maurice White, rock singer, 55.

Anniversaries

Births: Andreas Osiander (Hosemano), religious retormer, 1495; Philip V, King of Spain, 1683; Sir William Edward Parry, Aretic explorer, 1790; John Ella, violinist and writer. 1802; Jean-Baptiste Charles Dancki, violinist, 1818; Al-bert Abraham Michelson, physicist, 1852; Sir Stanley Unwin, publisher, 1884; Thomas Godfrey Pulson Cor-bett, Second Baron Rawallan, Chief Scout, 1895; Oliver Hazard Perry La Furge, author, 1901; Sir Ruloh David Richardson, actor, 1902; Leonid Ilyah Brezhnev, Soviet leader, 1906; Jean Genet, playwright and essayist. 1910; Edith Piaf (Edith Girwanna Gaxion), unger, 1915. Deaths: Anas-tasus 1, Pope, 401; Matteo Maria Beiardo, poet, 1494; Vitus Jonassen Berine, navigator, 1741; Jean-Baptiste Vanloo, painter, 1745; Fred-

erick Meknior, Baron von Grimm, statesman and wit, 1807; David Hart-ley the younger, statesman and inventor, 1812; Benjamin Smith Bar-ton, naturalist, 1815; Emily Bronte, novelist, 1848; Joseph Mallord William Turner, painter, 1851; Sir Paul Gavrilovich Vinogradoff, lawyer and historian, 1925; Subhas Chandra Buse, politician, 1945; Robert Andrews Millikan, physicist, 1953. On this day: Huguenots and Catholics clashed when the Battle of Dreuxwas tought, 1502; during the American-British war of 1812, the Toronto parliament building was set alight, and Fort Niagara was taken by the British, 1813; the United States recognised the independence of Hawaii, 1842; in the New Hebrides, over 500 peo-ple were killed following a volcanic eruption, 1913: the British evacuated Penang, 1941; an air service be-tween London and Moscow was beam, 1957; eight crew members re drowned from the Penice lifeboat of Mousehole, Cornwall, as were eight people of the Union Star coaster, 1981; Ted Hughes was ap-pointed Poet Laureate, 1984. Today s the Feast Day of St Anastasius [of Antioch, St Gregory of Auxerre, St Nemesius of Alexandria and St

Lectures Victoria and Albert Museum: Pippa Sharley, "Early Silver for Dining and Display", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Simon Morley, "The

Constructed Vision: abstract art between the wars", 1pm. British Museum: Hilary Williams, "Queen Mary's Collection of Christmas and New Year Cards", 1.15pm. National Gallery: Gabriele Finaldi, Neil MacGregor, Colin Wiggins,

Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon, Chief of the Air Staff, presided at a dinner held yesterday evening by the Air Force Board Standing Com-mittee in the Mezzanine Suite of the RAF Club, London W1, to mark the retirement of Air Marshal Sir Roger

Reval Society of St George The Lord Mayor of London, Mr Roger Cork, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, attended the Christmas Banquet of the City of London Branch of the Royal Society of St George held yesterday evening at Mansion House, London EC4. Mrs Pauline A. Halliday, Chair-man, presided. Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division, was the speaker. The Rev Basil Watson said grace. Music was provided by the Band of the Life Guards, conduct-

Schools

Sherborue School International Study Centre

ed by Major C.J. Reeves.

The Headmaster of Sherborne School has announced the appointment of Dr Christopher Greenfield as the Principal of the International Study Centre, from September 1997. Dr Greenfield, currently Headmaster of Sideot School, takes over from Mr Ralph Mowat, who retires

The gloves come off in the playground scrap

ark, amid the sound of Christmas sleigh-bells comes the won the vote by more than expected, sound of playground bickering. That, at least, will be the verdict of most of the public on this week's wrangles at Westminster. The fact that voting agreements between the political parties broke down to recriminations from all sides will seem to most people like just another boys' game.

But the parliamentary games that politicians play are not all to be sneered at. It would be easy to recoil in squeamish distaste at the tactics that these professional politicians are starting to exploit. But we cannot dismiss out of hand the escapades this week. Events at Westminster reflect important and real political tensions between the parties that must stand before us next year

On the surface, the playground analogy is rather appealing. Parliament is run most of the time according to unspoken, unwritten rules that everyone obeys. A certain amount of agreement and cooperation between the parties is essential if anything is to be done, and if MPs are not to waste their time and energy running pointless circles around each other. "Pairing" is one of those rituals: parties match their MPs who want to miss the vote, so absent votes cancel each other out. Such rituals are necessary to oil the parliamentary process.

But, as the election draws closer,

by deceiving the opposition parties about how many Tory MPs would be absent. Caught red-handed, ministers cheerily denied everything and muddied the waters by making false accusations against Labour's whips in return. Not surprisingly, in response, Labour and the Liberal Democrats have announced that they will not be pairing MPs with absent Tories in the new year. Tit for predictable tat.

The animosity is personal, too. The biweekly dispatch box encounters between Tony Blair and John Major have taken on a vitriolic tone in recent weeks. The sneering tone with which the Prime Minister patronises and accuses the Labour leader is undignified. Contempt oozes from every pore. But Mr Major can't quite carry it off. Admonishing Mr Blair for being unable to "understand the situation on beef", for example, is rich coming from a Government that has changed direction on beef so many times that none of us are sure what the Government is up to - if it knows itself.

But when all is said and done, it does seem childish, all this indignation and cheating. Recounting their squabbles, the politicians seem like over-excited children, screaming because the end of the game is in sight. Don't be misled. It's serious. Underlying the spat are two important facts: the Government lost its those agreements are grinding down. majority in Parliament this week, and



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the Conservative Party is too fractured and fractious to hold together reliably under pressure. The loss of its majority reflects the public sentiment. The fractures in the party reveal tensions and problems in their ability to run an effective Government. These are not trivial

troubles; they go to the heart of politics.

In the circumstances, an opposition party that truly believes in itself and its ability to govern has a responsibility to try to bring the Government down at the earliest opportunity. And a party that really thinks - as Labour claims to do that it has a better vision for the country, should not flinch from parliamentary

tactics that help to win the wider battle. If that means dragging debates on into the middle of the night, holding votes at strange hours, proposing sab-otage amendments, and doing whatever it takes to harry and harass ministers into making mistakes, then so be it. These are the circumstances in which that master of parliamentary procedure, Dennis Skinner, should really come into his own.

There is nothing unfair or underhand about this kind of strategy. If John Major's government proved coolheaded, calm and competent, an opposition guerrilla war would have little Democrats would achieve is pressure on existing weaknesses and strains within the Government, legitimately testing its real mettle in difficult times.

That is what the Opposition should be doing - but it is not. Instead, this week the Government fired the first shots. When battle intensified at the personal and party level, it was the Tories wot started it. Labour and the Liberal Democrats were too squeamish to begin the fight, too ready to pull punches, too unwilling to go for the Government's throat. Maybe now things will be different. Maybe the startling deciet and brazen lies by the Conservative whips' office will provoke the Opposition into a little ferocity. Perhaps Mr Major's patronising personal attacks will inspire a little fury in Tony Blair. Not before time. Labour needs to learn how to play parliamentary hard ball to demonstrate to all of us that it has the appetite for

power, and deserves to govern. All these macho metaphors are unfortunate. We use them with great selfconsciousness and a strong awareness that important issues can get lost in the heat of the fight. Parties which are sensitive to voters will avoid taking guerrilla tactics on to the streets, knowing that none of this goes down well with voters already badly disaffected with yah-boo politics. Nevertheless, politicians cannot stick to pleasant abstract chats with voters while ignoring the unpleasant real-

impact. All Labour and the Liberal ities of the parliamentary cockpit. Substantive arguments about different policies and priorities are important. But until our present political system is reformed, Parliament remains the theatre in which those differences are fought out. In the end, this battle matters, because two party leaders are fighting for the right to decide which one determines our national future on one of the biggest issues of the day: our future in Europe, Parliament, whether we like it or not, is the proving ground.

Agirl-friendly computer game?

Surprise, surprise: girls are turned off by computers. Gender equality in information technology is decades away if their antipathy to video games and the Internet lasts into later life. Women may miss out on a growing segment of modern life. But, wait, is that a dashing woman coming to the rescue? One of this Christmas's smash hit computer games is Playstation's "Tomb Raider", and its central character is the undeniably female Lara Croft - the first woman action hero. With her guns and big bust she is, it's true, somewhat stereotyped. But if she can help break down the maleness of computer gaming, let's give Lara a warm welcome.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Blair can save **Europe from** nationalists

Sir: The leader of the Labour Party has intoned the mantra of "standing up for British interests" in the European Union ("I'll use the Euro veto, says Blair", 16 (December). This implies that our interests are different from those of

several fronts. First, the rise of nationalism and xenophobia, which is shamelessly encouraged by the majority of the press in the UK, by much of the Conservative Party and by far-right groups throughout

Europe, where the EU must encourage trade and the continued political and economic development which will facilitate the eastern enlargement of the

initiative, encompassing a wellconstructed Economic and Monetary Union, is the only sensible suggestion on offer for creating jobs. Employment deregulation would not be enough. The United Kingdom has much

to gain. A future British government must fully engage in-EMU. Monetary Union and an effective European Central Bank hegemony of the City and banking interests in the United Kingdom, for so long short-termist and anti-

government should assist in improving the democratic decision-making in the Union. Hitherto the British government has been uniquely obstructionist, which is hardly surprising from the most centralised state in the

The Labour Party must not make the same mistakes as the Conservatives in perpetuating an "us and them" view of Europe. A huge effort is required to win back the initiative from the nationalist right and the anti-Europeans. If Blair is afraid to take up the challenge, then at best Britain is heading for marginalisation, a further decline in our international role and no say whatsoever in the development of the European Union. At worst, we may act as midwife to a process of European disintegration. Only those with an Alice in Wonderland view of the world and a total blind spot for European history can welcome the

prospect. SIMON SWEENEY Senior Lecturer in European Integration Studies, University College of Ripon and York St John

Sir: John Lichfield hits several nails on the head in his excellent essay on European Union enlargement to Eastern Europe ("Europe: how the East was lost", 16 December). Unless there is fundamental reform of the EU's institutions and policies, enlargement could be botched or abandoned".

However, it needs to be spelled out more clearly that it will be the financial cost of enlargement that determines whether the process goes ahead or not. In Strasbourg recently the European Parliament voted on a

Europe. They are not. The EU faces acute dangers on

Europe. Secondly, the threat of stagnation and decline in Eastern

Thirdly, unemployment, currently at 22.5 per cent across the Union. A co-ordinated European

to offer in all these areas and much ensuring the sound construction of might even succeed in breaking the industry.
Furthermore, the next

accountability and effectiveness of industrialised world.

> Grandiose political real question: what price enlargement? For as long as address this issue, any promises they make to the countries of Socialist Group Spokesperson on Budgetary Affairs, European Parliament Brussels

Sir: Noting Sarab Helm's article on Continental scepticism towards the European Union "The British have been led to believe only they are sceptical about Europe", 12 December), I was most surprised to discover that British support for the EU had risen to 43 per cent in the wake of the beef crisis.

I come from a region that has been bled white over decades of lack of British inward investment; a region that has benefited greatly from recent economic support from Brussels. I am grateful to discover that I am increasingly not alone in welcoming wider European integration, despite the misgivings about the possible

destabilising effect of the euro. Caught between a farming industry that thinks it perfectly acceptable to feed the ground-up



Budget Committee report remains of diseased sheep offal to concerning this subject, concluding animals (and then become totally that if enlargement is to work, current member states must be absent-minded about it) and a prevaricating British government committed to paying for it. Unfortunately, this means not just reforming the CAP and structural must be one of many British citizens who increasingly look to Brussels for protection from these funds, but also facing up to the fact that extra cash needs to be found if appalling people.

DAVID R PARRY the EU budget is to be able to sustain enlargement Sir: May I use your columns to say

pronouncements in Dublin and elsewhere have failed to answer the member states' governments fail to Eastern Europe are empty ones. TERRY WYNN MEP

Dignified exit for Reading Room

historical periods. ERICCELSTOB

London EI

Sir: Tony Garrett (letter, 4 December) advocates the dismantling of the British Museum Reading Room and re-erection alongside the new British Library.

how handsome I find the new euro banknotes ("Dusk or dawn for

Europe?", 14 December)? I do

understand and sympathise with

causing British nationalists - all

this symbolism of bridges between

the distress which they must be

nations, and all that foreign

architecture and those foreign

This is an idea put forward by this society last summer, having in mind the basically cast-iron structure of the building. However we were assured that this was not a practical proposition. If this is so, and given that, apart from the dome, the exterior of the building (never intended for public view) i of little aesthetic interest, we

would not suggest the erection of a steadily being questioned or slavish replica on the St Pancras disregarded by its own members.

Nevertheless, if it is intended to go ahead with the present plans for the Reading Room, the interior furniture and fittings should be carefully removed and incorporated in a new structure

forming an annexe to the British Library. Here they could continue to perform a useful function with a degree of dignity which we fear will be missing in the revamped original MĂLCOLM CAMPBELL

Chairman Camden Civic Society London NW1

Rightist Catholic converts beware

Sir: It was good to see Jack O'Sullivan getting the rush to the Roman Catholic Church by the Anglican right into perspective "The resurrection that never was", 10 December). One cannot question their

personal motives, but they will not find the Church the safe haven they imagine. At a personal level, as a Roman Catholic myself, I think we should have women priests; I frequently share communion with Anglican friends; I think celibacy for priests should be an option; and I think we should have radical options for the poor. I would guess

am not alone. Moreover, at a structural level. the authority of the Church is

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Contraception is a debate for the theologians, not the laity. They hav already voted tacitly with small nuclear families, or by their abse from the confessional, and of course the priests and hierarchy

The name was abbreviated to

Dutch form, daler, before entering English as "dollar" before 1600 and becoming the common English

coin, better known as the "piece of

eight".
Popular with Long John Silver,

the piece of eight was the common currency of Spain and its

American colonies, and had come into general use throughout the British colonies of North America

Revolution in 1776. (Proof, by the

way, that sharing a currency with

The dollar sign thus evolved

Mexicans use this same \$ sign for

their modern currency, still called

Sir: The S sign did not begin life as

a river running between two banks.

It started as a xenogram, a foreign

pronounced as if it were English.

"Pesos" was abbreviated as "pS".

and this abbreviation was gradually

ligature. In the same way we write £

(an ornate L for Latin libra) but say

"pound", or write & (an ornate

ligature of Latin et) but say "and".

peso was the most frequent high-

value coin in circulation in British

English for any foreign coin of

Professor MAURICE POPE

North America and "dollar" (from

In the 18th century the Spanish

You wrote "peso" but you said

formalised into the present

word written as such but

by the time of the American

others does not preclude

from the numeral "8". The

independence!)

JIM MANGLES

'dollar".

Wortham, Suffolk

thaler and then turned into its

name for the peso or eight-real

The central authority of Rome, and the orthodoxies at the papal centre too, are continually under question in Western Europe, the United States and South America which points to a real as opposed to a fake subsidiarity slowly taking place. Right-wing assertiveness will not do, nor the deferential bowing to the administrative and doctrinal structures of the Church.

know it.

Presumably right-wing political refugees see some comfort in the Roman Church's religious stances of the far right - but beware, beware: we have a middle ground and a far left, too. MrTW MESSENGER Hove, Sussex

Dollar linked to pieces of eight

Sir: Sara Clarke's explanation for the origin of the \$ sign (letter, 18 December) may be appealing, but is only partially correct; the real explanation is equally appealing and more romantic.

The name comes from the German coin the Joachimstaler, named for Joachimstal (Joachim Valley) in Bohemia, where they

were first minted in 1519. Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056: e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk).

not seek publicity Sir: As the solicitor who represented Learco Chindamo

Young killer did

during his recent trial for the murder of Philip Lawrence, I have noted with concern the publication of what purports to be an interview with him in *The Sunday Times*, and the subsequent reaction to that article ("Interview with head's killer angers MP*, The Independent, 16 December)

One can well understand the public auxiety which has been engendered by what appears to be an attempt by Chindamo to court media attention. I would like to set the record straight.

Before, during and after the trial, Chindamo's family has been continually harassed and pursued their clear and determined refusal to make any comment. In accordance with Chindamo's wishes, those of us who represented his interests refused numerous opportunities to speak publicly on

Last week a journalist managed to bypass security arrangements and persuaded Chindamo, who is a 16-year-old of low intelligence, to speak to him on the telephone from custody. The result was the publication in *The Sunday Times* of what claimed to be an accurate record of an interview with Chindamo; this article has prompted suggestions that Chindamo has provided himself with a public platform.

He has in fact never sought any contact with the press, either directly or indirectly. He and his family have always resisted any temptation that there may have been to correct inaccuracies in reports which concern them, and

continue to do so. The irresponsible journalism which led to the publication of the recent article in The Sunday Times deserves censure through the columns of your newspaper.
CAMILLA LOEWE Hodge Jones & Allen London NWI

Women abuse too

Sir: Emma Kay (letters, 14 December) seeks to protect children in care by refusing to employ men in children's homes. She states that females "very rarely" abuse children.

The NSPCC (Child Abuse Trends in England & Wales for 1988-90) reports mothers as committing 12.5 per cent of known cases of sexual abuse in "non-broken" homes. This

is a lot of women. Belief that women "very rarely" abuse children often prevents complaints being investigated, so the true figures may be worse. HENRY BUNBURY London N8

Artful dodge

Sir: The £3m deficit at the Royal Academy is indeed a mere trifle and should be eliminated immediately by asking all RAs to put paint to canvas; one stroke of their expensive brushes should solve this.

Also, the Summer Exhibition could be sited at two or three additional locations (Bristol, Bradford, Glasgow) and all the paintings sold on a sealed-tender basis, with all sums above estimated value going to Academy funds. I like simple solutions from the

the German thaler) was colloquial school of naïve accounting. RICHARD ROBINSON

Europe's where the action is

by Kenneth Clarke

was very powerful indeed. We Community in 1973, the European Union today? Ours must be the only country where, nearly a quarter of a century after accession, that question still needs to be asked. For those of us who can

recall the 1950s and 1960s, the experience of missing the boat - being locked out, and then eventually getting in only after many of the key decisions had already been taken by others has shaped our whole attitude to Europe.

Today we are becoming prey to a mythology that we joined only an economic community. with no serious political dimension, and that the purpose of our membership was uniquely economic. That is not the case. Our motives were political to the extent that, as Macmillan put it at the time, through membership "this country would not only gain a new stature in Europe, but also increase its standing and influence in the councils of the world". Unless the UK joined, "the realities of power would compel our American friends to attach increasing weight to the views and interests of the Six in Europe ... and to pay less attention to our own ... To lose influence both in Europe and Washington, as this must mean, would seriously undermine our international

The political dimension of the European Community we entered in 1973 had a second component, above and beyond maximising our influence in world affairs. It involved the explicit pooling of some legal sovereignty in limited and specific areas set down in the Treaty of Rome. This was a con-

role as a government whip. Economics did, however, joining. The economic rationale ing performance the improve-

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knew that access to a much larger market, the absence of internal tariffs, and the removal of non-tariff barriers would give our business the chance to enjoy economies of scale on a truly continental scale - and our consumers access to a wider choice of goods at more competitive prices. The single market programme of the 1980s, to complete the common market of the 1960s, has made that a reality, and enabled our people today to reap the benefits of a

far-sighted economic policy.

The result is that today, 60 per cent of our trade in goods, and over half of all our trade, is transacted with other EU states. That compares with 40 per cent of our trade when we joined. Since 1973, the growth in UK exports to EU states has been twice as rapid as to the rest of the world. Today, Britain's visible exports to Germany alone equal those to the United States and Japan combined. We export more to France than to the Commonwealth, and more to the Netherlands than to all the newly inclustrialised Asian countries put together. Supplying the Euro-pean market has become a key motor of British prosperity.

And to those who claim that, throughout all this, our trade deficit with the EU has widened, the facts actually prove the opposite. As a share of GDP, the UK's trade deficit with our EU partners has shrunk since we joined not grown, even though our over-all trade with these countries has more or less doubled.

The clear pattern over the past quarter century has become one of growing British economic interdependence with the EU, and also of growing economic convergence with scious political decision, and its our partners. For many years, full implications were discussed we were falling behind France extensively in Parliament in and Germany in living standehates during 1971-72, to dards. That process has now which I listened for hours in my been reversed. Over the last cycle, our output growth per head outpaced that of both feature large in our reasons for countries. And in manufactur-

more spectacular still. In the 1970s our manufacturing productivity grew at half the the 1980s and 1990s, we have exceeded it.

We are beginning to match the stability achieved by our most successful partners in their general economic management, and we in turn are leading the way as a model for

liberalising, supply-side reform. But UK membership of the world's largest single marketplace has been of vital importance in enabling us to obtain the full benefits of that liberalising reform. Since the major strides made in completing the single market, Britain now has a tailor-made homebase of more than 370 million of the world's richest and most demanding consumers on its doorstep. In value terms the single market is one and a quarter times the size of the US market, and two and a half times the size of that of Japan.

Here in Britain, our domestic market is now the European market. However much we may like to criticise Europe in this country, every sensible Briton needs Europe's customers, and knows that he or she depends on them for their prosperity.

Ironically, as we engage in a seemingly endless political debate over our role in Europe. the economic debate is largely over. Business sees that Europe is where the action is commercially, and consumers see it, too. Europe offers us a growing opportunity to excel economi-

cally, and the best is yet to come. It is precisely because the engaged in radical supply-side reform, charting a path which others now have to follow, that we have managed to get ahead of the game. With a more flex-ible labour market, more dereg-

foreign-owned firms than 17 per cent of the UK's Economically, we must continue to make change our ally, technology our friend. But equally, I believe you cannot be

ulated product markets, a larger and more efficient capital market, a smaller state sector, as well as lower corporate and personal taxes than any of our principal European competitors, Britain now stands in an ideal situation to draw real economic gains from the continental market which we have helped build

he continuing success of the UK as a centre of inward investment is a striking illustration of the enterprise-triendly environment we have been fostering. In the single market, Britain has now been the largest recipient of non-EU investment for several years. Some 40 per cent of Japanese and US investment United Kingdom has been in Europe, and 50 per cent of South Korean investment, comes to Britain. During the 1990s, the UK has received as much inward investment as Germany, France and Italy combined. The total inward investment stock in the UK from all sources now stands at more than £150bn. It has brought about 700,000 jobs to the UK since 1979, most of them in recent years.
Inward investment has been

very good for British business. We have become Europe's biggest net exporter of televisions, computers and microchips. We are now a net exporter of motor cars. Com-pared with British-owned firms here, inward investors in the UK boast wages a quarter higher, value of product per head a third higher and net capital expenditure per head twice

less than 40 per cent of UK exports are now generated by Internationalisation has consequences. It links you closer to others and reduces your capacity to take independent actions that contradict the interests of others. And Britain in the mid-1990s is a very inter-nationally-orientated economy indeed. We are more dependent on foreign trade than any other large industrial economy. We are a larger recipient and generator of investment flows as a share of GDP than any other G7 country. Our economy is exceptionally orientated towards the financial services sector, which now accounts for no less

as hìgh.

inward

and ease of

access to the UK market, no

the enterprise centre of Europe without being centrally involved in every economic and political debate in Europe. I believe that our continuing and future economic success, exploiting the opportunities of our enterprise economy, depends to a significant degree on Britain being and staying a key player in the politics of our

People do not invest in Britain, they do not acquire our companies, they do not create new jobs in this country just because they like to play golf or practise their English. They do it because they see Britain as a high-skill, low-tax, flexible, business-friendly entry-point into place which is Europe today. For them, as it should be for us, the words "Britain" and "Europe" go together. The one leads to the other. Doing well in Britain means doing well in Europe. Good economics and leads to the other. Doing well in icant effect on the political and economic shape of Europe. good politics in Europe, as at as it evolves. It follows from all home, go hand in hand.

As a country we cannot choose to live by the European marketplace economically and then exclude ourselves from discussion of the political future of our continent. That is the path of those who would seek British withdrawal from the EU or a fundamental renegotiation of our membership terms. It is

one which we rightly reject.
The decisions being taken in Europe daily are too important for us to stand aside from them. We have a huge vested interest in how Europe's single market of International Affairs.

and competition policy operate, what trade policies Europe pursues, what environmental standards it sets. It matters to us deeply what Europe's foreign and security policies are. Inside the EU or outside it, at the heart of Europe or at its edge, we will be affected by the choices made by our partners. We need to be and we want to be - in there, arguing as a committed member, determined to advance British interests and build a

Europe that works In arguing for Britain to be and remain a key player in Europe, I believe that we need to become more confident as a people about what we have to offer Europe, what we have to gain from Europe and what our chances are of success in

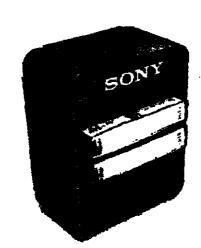
ertainly Europe is not, and never will be, the be all and end all of either our economic success or our political power as a country. But, properly structured, it offers a serious opportunity for Britain to continue to punch substantially above its weight in world affairs - a world in which we, and some other European countries too, might otherwise find our influence gradually eroding year by year. In this country we represent only 1 per cent, and falling, of the world's population. Somehow I think we want to continue to enjoy a lot more than 1 per cent of the world's prosperity and power.

The future institutional design of Europe remains open Malcolm Rifkind said la week, in a striking phrase, that Britain wanted the EU to be more than a free-trade area and less than a federal state. In fact, that is its current shape, and one which we have helped mould, with sovereignty-sharing in some areas and intergovernmental co-operation in others. That must be right. And the encouraging thing is that a good number of our partners share that view.

Finally, I would like to say just a few words about mone tary union. I have argued that Britain joined the EU for both political and economic reasons, that Britain is exceptionally well placed to succeed ecocapitalising on that advantage these propositions that the Government's policy on EMU is right. It would be contrary to British interests to rule out now, on any specific timescale, participating in the next important development that may occur in Western Europe: the creation of a single currency. That is our position, and we will stick to it.

This is an edited extract of a lecture delivered by the Chancellor of the Excheque

Reasons for buying Sonv 8mm video. There's a stack.



Get high definition, brilliant colour and a tree, stackable storage cube when you buy two Sony 90 minute form video topes."

SONY

For those who were paying attention.

uiz time again! Yes, this is our traditional Christmas quiz and this is the traditional time of year when you cut out this special topical Christmas quiz and put it to one side, then spend most of Christmas Day looking for the Christmas Quiz you cut out on December 19th and haven't seen since!

The questions are all based on a knowledge of what happened in 1996, which means for instance that if you have been doing a lot of research into 1929 you'll be at a bit of a disadvantage, so we've put one question in specially for you.

Here we go then with our Grand 1996 Topical Quiz!

1. Who said the following in a) "Well, done, Brian -

everything seems on course for the next election!" b) "Yes. John - as chairman of the party I've done everything possible to ensure we get back in power!" c) "Just a mo, just a mo, Brian – I thought I had told you that the whole point of

the campaign was to make sure we handed the whole mess over to Labour?" d) "I thought you were joking, John." e) "I never joke, Brian. Why do you think I've kept Michael Howard in office so long? To court popularity? We're trying to lose the

f) "Well, I'll be doggoned!"
g) "Very possibly, Brian, very
possibly. Incidentally, are you a real doctor?"

2. Organisation was so laid-back at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia, that a bus drew up yesterday, December 18th, at the Olympic stadiom and disgorged the French volleyball team six months after they were due to be delivered! True or false?

3. Ernest Saunders, once thought to be suffering from senile dementia but now not thought to be, bad his trial declared unfair by the **European Court of Human** Rights. On what grounds?

a) The judges are all suffering

Miles Kington

from senile dementia; b) to give John Major another humiliation; c) because Guinness now owns over 51 per cent of the shares in the European Court of Human Rights.

4. When the farmers were asked what they thought of the Government's policy on BSE, to which part of which animal did they compare it?

5. Investigators into the TWA crash off the coast of

most likely cause was: a) bad design;b) bad luck; c) OJ Simpson.

6. The fire in the Channel tunnel which put it out of action was caused not by a train at all but by a burning lorry, yet it is seen by everyone as a train accident not a road accident. Do you think this was:

a) Fair? b) Reasonable? c) Put there secretly by the férry operators?

7. What was the name of the film that was so violently blasphemous that the European Court of Human Rights refused to give it a clean bill of health? a) "St Teresa Gorman and her Battle to Get Mock-Tudor Planning Permission"
b) "The Erotic TV-induced Nightmares of Virginia

Bottomley" c) "Madonna's Baby's First Interview" d) "Matinée on the Bounty"

8. Explain how the new

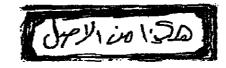
United Nations, Kofi Annan, is related to Lord Noël

9. Under the new voting procedures in Parliament, which the Labour and Lib Dems have forced on the Tory party, David Mellor MP a) an elderly Tory MP who died several years ago; b) a small arms firm in Düsseldorf; c) a large roundabout near Darmstadt.

10. What is Crash? a) A new book about the next election? b) The sequel to

Trainspotting? c) A controversial film about a French lorry driver?
d) Beryl Bainbridge's new novel about the Wall Street

More Christmas Quiz questions coming soon! Keep your eyes open for them! And, meanwhile, if a tall dark stranger offers you emergency pairing arrangements - have



Virgin's virgin

really need is a

developed ovum and a back-

when all you

mutation to testosterone

sensitivity

right, had a white veil and a sad

the commentators

Who needs a euphemism for Christmas?

have just returned from the United States, where Christmas is in full spate. Except that it isn't Christmas. It's "The Holiday Season". Carols are crooned from every shop entrance and blare from Tannoys on street corners. But they aren't quite Christmas carols. They are redolent of tin-kling sleigh bells and jingling cheer, but the message is oddly coy when it comes to religious specifics. Stampedes of rednosed reindeer convey their red-checked Santas through thickers of holly, spangled with giant snowliakes, escorted by squadrons of robins. But you'll find precious few mentions of Jesus or Mary or even shep-herds or Wise Men from the East, and certainly no reference to the intricate theology of the Incarnation. When you telephone hotel reception, before the inevitable (and unfailingly maddening) "How may I help you?" you get a seasonal greet-ing as a bonus. Happy Holi-dage! Not Happy Christmas or days! Not Happy Christmas or Merry Yuletide but Happy Holidays or, in its full version. "Happy Holiday Season".

The first few times I experienced this mealy-mouthed eva-sion, I queried it. Putting on my most innocently testy John

Day? St Patrick's Day (notoriously a tradition as American as apple pie, celebrated with green beer garnished with plastic leprechauns)? Was it the birthday of George Washington, or perhaps another from the pantheon of birthdays that stud the national calendar? No? Oh, I see, of course, how silly of me, you must mean Happy Christmas. But of course we mustn't call it that, must we, because that would cause offence and "hurt" to the Jews (Muslims, Hindus, Hare Krishnas, etc).

The constitutional separation of church and state has not stopped America becoming the most religiose country in the (otherwise) civilised world, and in a number of court cases litigious representatives of non-Christian religions have sued local governments for erecting cribs or nativity tableaux in public places. Presumably, working on the alternative prin-ciple of "If you can't beat them, join them", other Jewish groups on both sides of the Atlantic have pressed into service the minor fesival of Chanukah, which happens to fall conveniently at the right end of the year (Chanukah or Hanukkah actually commemorates the Religious conviction – Whoa, back off! Religious conviction doesn't have to defend purification and rededication of the Temple by Judas Maccabeus around 165BC, after its pollution by the Syrians). As long ago as 1902 the Daily Chronicle noted that "The feast of time is in the grossest bad taste.



Richard **Dawkins**

In their desire to be inoffensive, Americans have set the pace for meaningless holidays

suggest that nativity plays are outdated in a society with so

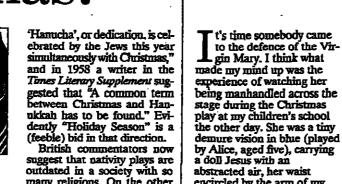
many religions. On the other hand, a few Christmases ago, the *Independent* carried a charmingly ecumenical picture in which the roles of the Three Wise Men ware played by Wise Men were played by "a Sikh", "a Moslem" and "a Christian", all aged four. Charming the children themselves genuinely were. What I find less charming - indeed it is little short of an outrage, if you think about it – is the implica-tion in the caption that a four-year-old child is in any position to have developed theological opinions. Do we speak of a four-year-old monetarist Eurosceptic, a four-year-old dialectical materialist or a four-yearold neo-Kantian? Such ideas are laughable, yet we accept "Muslim child" or "Christian child" without blinking.

If a child is the child of an

Cleese voice (I just love your atheist, does that make her an English dialect) I inquired exactly what was this "holiday"? Could it be Labor Day? Veterans with sinister implications of indoctrination. For with sinister implications of indoctrination. this reason, most educated atheists (and, by the way, have you ever met an uneducated atheist?) bend over backwards to let their children join in the religious life of their schools. Pupils who are withdrawn from religious classes or services are not withdrawn by atheist parents. They are withdrawn by parents belonging to rival religions, presumably the same types who sue local coun-cils for celebrating Christmas (and when did an atheist ever do that?).

As for children who are withdrawn by their parents from biology classes where evolution is taught, they are surely victims of an educational form of parental child abuse and are entitled to protection by the state. But will anybody stand up and say so? They will not, because the kind of people who might think it are nice, lib-eral intellectuals, and nice, liberal intellectuals are scared to jelly of being caught not "respecting" religious conviction. Any other sort of conviction you can examine with a critical eye, and you can use your intellect to take it apart if it nd wanting. But if a conviction turns out itself. It doesn't have to justify itself. You just have to respect it, period.

Even making fun of its antics at Christmas



encircled by the arm of my son Max, who was playing St Joseph (usual £10 to form mistress) as if the divine carpenter were an ageing roué intent on finding a fashionable wine bar rather than a manger. But as I looked at Alice/Mary - a traditionally non-speaking, endlessly put-upon role in Nativity plays – it occurred to me that the Mother of God has been getting a terrible press lately. Forget the obvious stuff how, for instance, her most beautiful nickname has been so totally co-opted by Ms Ciccone. Worse is the way her image is so casually abused by marketing departments. When Virgin Records

decided they needed a special Christmas thrust, they grabbed a (frankly rather experiencedlooking) babe in a Virgin Tshirt, put her in a white veil, gave her a sad expression and appended a banner saying "All you need is ..." Very subtle. Then the "Churches

Advertising Network", whom I take to be some ecumenical convocation of marketing-minded clerics, festooned the hoardings of central London with their "Bad Hair Day" joke ("You're a virgin, you've had a baby, then three kings show up"), the kind of sally that comes from people who have heard of the concept of humour without knowing how one actually goes about it.
One thinks of the uncomplicated affection with which, in more devout days, one used to regard the Queen of Heaven and one cannot but feel rather appalled by this thick-eared, block-headed lèse-majesté.

Then Science and Christian Belief magazine (I get it for the loaves and fishes recipes) plops through the door. Seeking to answer the cavils of some sceptical Christians who doubt that Mary could have stayed a virgin while conceiv-ing Jesus, a credulous genetics boffin called Sam Berry from University College London tries to explain the genetic circumstances of "virgin conception". It's an uphill struggle.

The mechanisms I have outlined," says the Prof nervously, "are unlikely, unproven and involve the implication that either Jesus or Mary (or both) were developmentally abnormal."

There follows a hailstorm of chromosomal acronyms. XYs and XXs flying around like typewriter cancellations, and a lot of stuff about genetic mutation.





Prof Berry sees Mary as an androgynous mess, sterile and wombless but with the capacity to develop human eggs. "If this happened and if the ovum developed parthenogenetically," he writes, clutching at straws a little, "and if a backmutation to testosterone sensitivity took place, we would have the situation of an apparently normal woman giving birth, without intercourse, to a son."

Well done, Sam. I think we all feel a great deal better after that. Myself, I'm happy to leave it a mystery, of the interpersonal rather than the genetic kind. It's ages since I went near a Catholic church, but I'd prefer it if the Virgin Mary were allowed to keep her secrets. Remember Charles Causley's poem "The Ballad of the Bread Man", in which the neighbours speculate rudely about her pregnancy? They wonder about Joseph ("The old man's past it, the neighbours said/ That girl's been up to no good'") and the angel Gabriel ("And who was that elegant fellow,'/ they said, 'in the shiny gear?") and look for an

answer. They don't get one: "Mary never answered./ Mary never replied./ She kept the information,/ like the baby, safe inside." Merry Christmas.

I was sorry to hear that Edward Blishen had died. The possessor of the most amused voice and most mobile eyebrows in medialand, he was also a plausible candidate for the title of Nicest Man in the World.

Readers of his multiple autobiographies will know the self-deprecating warmth that came off the pages as he described his run-ins with schoolboys, supply teachers, Civil Service types, army personnel and his appalling



Blishen: Good Egg

father. He was amazingly wellread - although far too appreciative of the printed word ever to make a plausible critic - slyly flattering, a virtuoso Good Egg.

I met him just once some years ago, when I was a guest on A Good Read. My co-guest was Maeve Binchy, the Irish novelist, at whom Blishen twinkled with merciless charm for half an hour. He praised her taste, her choice of books, her insights, her Irishness ... Finally, as she rose to leave, she extracted from her pocket a curious metal object which she shook out in front of her.

She was a tiny demure vision in blue, carrying a doll Jesus with an abstracted air, her waist encircled by the arm of my son Max

From a series of zigzag angles, it resolved itself into a walking stick. "Oh Maeve, how splendid," breathed an entranced Blishen, "a telescopic shillelagh.

Like right-thinking people everywhere, I have no truck with terrorists. I abhor the use of violence to further political ends. I cannot condone the deployment of force in the service of a higher good. The rhetoric of the socalled freedom fighter cuts no

ice with me.

spoiling us ...'

And I have no clue about the precise nature of the demands being made by the Tupac Amaru, the Peruvian organisation that interrupted the ambassador's reception in Lima on Tuesday night with a burst of gunfire, having infil-trated the party by dressing as waiters. But I cannot help feeling a small instinctive empathy about their invasion of the diplomatic circuit. I mean, somebody had to do something about that horrible bald butler. Someone had to upset that idiotic pyramid of gold-wrapped chocolates. And somebody – anybody would be surely justified in visiting an awful revenge on the blonde who gushes to the ambassador, "Why, wiz zeez Rocher chocolats, you are

I rushed to see Evita at a prewhere, at a time when the rest of the civilised world is digesting Cumberland sausages, one sat enduring Jimmy Nail's crooning technique, and scrutinising Madonna's abdomen for signs of gestation. But the film is very absorbing: Madonna sings "Another Suitcase in Another Hall" with an unexpected sob in the lower register (is it pregnancy or has she been taking lessons?), and Antonio Banderas is amazingly charming as Che Guevera.

It's all conducted at a high old Wagnerian pitch as we've come to expect from the great Alan Parker, who has a Hitchcockian cameo as a film director exasperated by Evita's ineptness. What puzzles me is the "screenplay by ..." credit. It goes to Parker and Oliver Stone. Now I can see how the film expands the stage version in various ways, with little coups de théâtre like the opening sequence in a cinema - but it remains a *sung-through* musical. That means, there's no dialogue. There's Tim Rice's lyrics and recu, and that's your lot.

Intrigued, you sit there waiting for some stunning interpolations of Oliver Stone chat, as per usual in a screenplay - and after two hours, all you can remember is a single conversation outside a church where Evita's mum is barred from the funeral of her children's father. The o widow abuses her and gesticu-lates. Does this mean Oliver Stone's only creative contribution to this movie is this? Widow-woman: "You were his whore and your children

are bastards." (Spits. Bites thumb.) Is that it? He could have

done it over the telephone.

Replacements for Jesus: graduates of a school for Santas in California

The Lords shoot themselves in the foot

nce again Tory peers are start-ing to make trouble for Michael Howard. Hurray, perhaps you think. Haven't the Lords repeatedly softened some of the sharper and most illiberal edges of Howard's law and order reforms? Not this time. Last Monday's second reading debate on the Firearms (Amendments) Bill, introduced in the aftermath of Dunblane, exposed the backwoods strength of the hereditary peerage in all its naked splendour. The Earl of Strafford withdrew his hostile amendment on the Bill - but only on the clear understanding that he and his colleagues will press for detailed changes to it in the new year. Those doubting that House of Lords reform is worth the fuss could do worse than

have a look at Monday's Hansard. There were 31 speakers in all. Of these, eight, including the Home Office minister Baroness Blatch and the two opposition frontbench spokesmen Lord McIntosh and Lord Rodgers (all three are life peers) spoke either in favour of the Bill or of an even tougher ban. Five were equivocal, and 18 were outright critics of the Bill, almost entirely on the grounds that it tampered with the legitimate rights of recreational shooters. Of those 18, one was Labour, the Euro-sceptic scourge of his own front bench, Lord Stoddart; one, Lord Thurso, was the only Liberal Democrat to attack the basis of the Bill; and two, Lord Craig of Radley and the for-mer Law Lord, Lord Ackner, were crossbenchers. The other 14 were all Conservatives. And of these, all but



Donald **Macintyre**

In their debate on gun control, hereditary peers inadvertently provided lethal ammunition for their own abolition

one, the landowner and former jour-nalist Lord Marlesford, were hereditary peers. (Of these, nine - like

Lord Marlesford - went to Eton.) The Government's legislation went further than Lord Cullen's report, in proposing a total ban on all handguns of over .22 calibre - though not as far as Labour and the Liberal Democrats wanted. It is perfectly legitimate for peers to question whether it would have been better for the Government to stick to Lord Cullen's recommendations. It is equally reasonable to argue that laws passed on a wave of emotion aren't always the best laws.

But faith in the Lords as a coolheaded revising chamber is scarcely reinforced by a reading of the arguments deployed in Monday's debate. Here, for example, is the Earl of Shrewsbury, Tory chairman, no less, of the Firearms Consultative Committee, the independent body set up in 1988 to advise the Home Secretary of the day on firearms legislation: "It is a very great pity that both [Thomas] Hamilton and [Michael] Ryan [the Hungerford killer] committed the atrocities with legally-held weapons. The problem does not lie with those who legally hold weapons. The problem lies with the millions of illegally-held weapons ..." The logic of this argument is genuinely baffling. What exactly is "the problem" that the noble Earl is talking about here? What about "the problem" of the massacres perpetrated by Ryan and Hamilton? Nobody knows for sure that they wouldn't have carried out some dreadful crime if they hadn't been able to get weapons legally. But no one knows for sure that they would, either.

Here, too, is the Earl of Haddington, gun-club member. Like many of the speakers he talks touchingly of his "appalling shock" as the father of three small children at the horror of Dunblane. But he goes on to describe affectionately how his father's gamekeeper "stressed the aspects of safety in no uncertain manner" when he taught him to shoot as a boy and then proceeds to question the planned ban on the use of dumdum bullets for 22 handguns on the grounds that rab-bits will suffer "agony" when they are shot with inferior ammunition. Lord Balfour, who also rails against this "emotive, panic Bill", shares with their Lordships his youthful apprenticeship with the "estate gamekeeper" -as if the main danger from handguns was carelessness by poor peasants who aren't properly taught to use them - and quotes approvingly the estimate by Brian Carter of the Gun Trade Association that a "reasonable compensation pay-out" would be £1bn rather than the £150m currently on offer from the Government Lord Gisborough describes the Bill as a "waste of public money" and holds the mass media, rather than lethal weapons, to blame for the current "harvest of gratuitous violence, road rage and sexual deviation". And Lord Swansea, with all the deep aristocratic disdain for a popular cause that he can muster, says that the Government has been panicked into introducing this "terrible Bill" by "pressure from

the public and the uninformed popular press but also [horror of horrors] by the imminence of a general election.

It was left (mainly) to life peers of all three main parties to point out that the Association of Chief Police Officers approved the ban, and that while it might not prevent every similar tragedy in the future it was worth doing for its own sake. And it was the Tory life peer Lord Sanderson of Bowden, a kirk elder, who affectingly quoted a senior churchwoman saying the ban accorded with the Church of Scotland's commitment to "promoting a culture of peace rather than of violence in our country". It is just that point which most of the landed hereditary peers don't get.

Ministers are apprehensive. The Lords could seriously delay the Bill in the new year, and that would only strengthen Labour's case for depriving hereditary peers of the vote. It's true that the Straffords and the Shrewsburys are only saying aloud what a lot of Tory Commons backbenchers think - that there should be no ban. Quite senior Tories are now saying privately that Mr Howard has severely damaged his leadership chances as a candidate from the right by introducing what one ex-minister this week called "profoundly un-Tory legislation" on handguns. But the MPs are much more reluctant to say so openly in the run-up to an election. The blue bloods have no such scru-ples. Wasn't it Bagehot who said that the "cure for admiring the House of Lords was to go and look at it??

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business & city

Unemployment falls as retail sales rise □ Interest rates tipped to go up □ Entrepreneurs reveal changing job trends

Sharp fall in jobless refuels rate fears

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

The announcement yesterday of a sharp fall in unemployment to along with steady growth in re-tail sales, has made a new year rise in interest rates more likely. Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, is firmly expected to advise a quarter-

per cent at his next meeting with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The economic news took sterling within a whisker of DM2.60 last night, up more than a pfennig during the day. Adam Cole, UK economist at

point rise in base rates to 6.25

James Capel, said: "These data were the final nail in the coffin for base rates in January." The futures markets are betting that base rates will be 7.25 per cent by the end of next year

is the economy gathers pace. Kenneth Clarke said yesterday that nothing made a change in base rates inevitable, but he repeated his commitment to keeping inflation under control. Low inflation is one of the ingredients that is making the economy so healthy," he said. The fall of 95,800 to 1.9 mil-

lion in the number of people claiming unemployment benefit, the biggest monthly drop since late 1962, was swollen by the introduction of the Job Seekers Allowance and ad-

Assessing new claims is taking longer, and means testing of claims now starts after six months rather than a year. These reduced the headline jobless figure by 25,000. New re-strictions on signing on by post and the fraud hotline also helped reduce the total.

Yet even taking these into account, last month's decline in aempioyment was the or for a quarter-century. Official statisticians said that the trend monthly decline was at least 15.000-20.000.

The number of claimants fell in all regions of the country. The below 10 per cent for the first time in more than 16 years. rapid economic growth was consistent, he said. John Monks, general secre-

tary of the TUC, welcomed the news but said: "Let's not forget that when this Government took office in 1979 unemployment was 1.3 million.

There was nevertheless supporting evidence of a real improvement in the jobs market in new figures for the workforce in employment yesterday. There were 165,000 new jobs in the third quarter, and 264,000 in the year to September. It was the biggest quarterly increase since March 1989, although unusually driven by a big in-crease in the number of selfemployed.

The separate, and less timely. figures from the detailed Labour Force Survey show that in the year to August there was a rise of 210,000 in employment, with part-time jobs once more dominating. Male full-time em-ployment fell but was more than offset by a big rise in parttime work to give an increase of 91,000. Women gained 55,000 full-time and about 66,000 part-

The stock of vacancies in Job Centres reached the highest level since the series began in 1980. The ratio of vacancies to unemployment, an indicator of how tight the labour market is, has returned to the levels of the late Eighties.

However, there was little sign in the figures that the rapid decline in unemployment is putting upward pressure on wages. Underlying average earnings growth remained at 4 per cent in October, the latest

Leo Doyle, an economist at Kleinwort Benson, said: "There are enough warning signals for Eddic George to be worried, but we have not got a fully fledged boom here." He said greater flexibility in the labour market meant the economy could be stronger for longer without stoking inflation.

On the other hand, Michael Saunders at Salomon Brothers said: "Base rates are likely to have to rise fairly soon to stop owerall unemployment rate the pace of growth from be-throughout to 6.9 per cent, with the rate in Northern Ireland falling capacity strains." The picture of



Free spirit: Malcolm Watt quit a well-paid job at Macallan-Glenlivet to buy a hotel and restaurant in Scotland

Malcolm Watt: From marketing to restaurants

career in wines and spirits by parting company with Macallan-Glenlivet and his £70,000-a-year job as marketing director and moving into the hotel business.

After deciding that the atmosphere at Macallan-Glenivet was "not conducive with working together" he bought the financially strapped Bayview hotel and restaurant in Culien, on the Moray Coast of Scotland, from the receivers. Hotel and restaurant business

went to the wall at an alarming rate of knots during the recession, and many would-be entrepreneur has been rudeawakened to the financial nightmare of ploughing a redundancy cheque from ione besidess the apolitic that they know ething eboilt.

"The learning curve for Mr Watt's new

Malcolm Watt (above) ditched a 20 year. career has been steep; and he has discovered that the most mental tasks in the trade often fall upon the owner's shoulders. However, he said: "The reward comes in building something." from scratch and moulding a cohesive team. The business is far more personal because I'm dealing with something I myself have made rather than with something I have inherited.

"The change is very very difficult if you don't have a financial parachute. I was lucky because my contract with Macallan-Glaffingth gave me a certain amount of financial flexibility. He tops up his finances by remain

ing in touch with his previous career through consultancy work. This allows the to keep my finger on the pulse of the wines and spirits industry," he said.

Tony de Rivaz: From telecoms to techno-toys

Tony de Rivaz was pulling in £65,000 ing into a resion store and coming away a year front working is the corporate it with an order.

name operation at Cable & Wireless until "It's marcellous when people phone October 1995 when, and severe cuts up and say. The is not what I've beam at the communications contains in the de-looking for cided to take voluntary reclandancy to however, it is not all glampin. He has pursue a toy invention idea: Logibloss, had to learn highly deal with the miles which are small electropic blocks that: of series moved with ninning a small which are small electronic blocks that:

which are sman electronic brocks that plug together.
Logiblocs were originally aimed at the under 10s but if seems that they hold the appeal of most toys for anyone between the ages of tive and 90. The toys were launched at Harrock last month, and have already sold out.

The radical career change has appealed in Mr do Plust heraits it has

However, it is to can ger row the last lad to learn him/to deat with the miles of set spe involved with northing a small business, and overcome the personal difficulties; arising from the cultural change of environment of working at a large company, to being pair, of a very small team.

The radical career change has apen for prainted at Cable & Wirele pealed to Mr de Rivaz, because it has a state of the prainted at Cable & Wirele enabled him to include in his creative, of all, i make all the change and the captaint of the change and country the change and country the change and country the changes of the change of the

EU to examine **Boeing** merger

Michael Harrison

A fresh and damaging trade war was threatening to break out last night between Europe and the US after Brussels warned that it would examine the Boeing-McDonnell Douglas merger with "a fine toothcomb" and impose sanctions if it hurt com-

petition in Europe. Karel van Miert, the EUs Competition Commissioner, said the \$45bn merger unveiled on Sunday night was "complex and problematic" and left observers in no doubt that Europe could ultimately block the deal if the two US aerospace groups failed to answer competition concerns. "It seems to us that it may raise questions regard-ing a dominant position." Mr van Miert told a news conference in Brussels. He expected the two companies to submit the deal for approval in January.

The Commission's swift reaction to the deal was being interpreted last night as a politically inspired move to defend the interests of Airbus Industrie, the four-nation European aircraft maker in which British Aerospace has a 20 per cent stake. "I find it hard to believe that the EU is a neutral party. It has an interest in promoting the European industry, in promoting Airbus,

said one antitrust lawyer. However, Airbus has already shrugged off the competitive threat posed by the merger, dis-missing McDonnell Douglas as an "also ran".

Although the combined comder 70 per cent of world airliner deliveries, Boeing, which is effectively taking over McDonnell Douglas, already has more than 60 per cent of the market. Many observers believe the merger will enhance the competitive position of Airbus because airlines will be anxious to ensure they have a choice if the number of manufacturers of large commercial aircraft falis to two.
Under EU law, the Com-

mission's mergers taskforce is entitled to vet any deal where the European turnover of the parties involved is above a certain level.

There is a precedent for Mr van Miert's warning. A year ago the Commission forced two US paper makers, Kimberley Clark and Scott Paper to dispose of number of consumers were as the price for approving their

The Commission has intervened before in a deal involving Boeing, blocking the sale of its regional aircraft subsidiary, de Havilland, to Aerospatiale of France and Italy's Alenia.

Buoyant Christmas trading goes soggy

Nigel Cope

tunes emerged yesterday with better-than-expected official data on November's high street sales and an upbeat consumer survey on Christmas shopping being tempered by reports from some shopkeepers that sales had slowed considerably in the past two weeks.

Nick Bubb, retail analyst at stockbrokers Mees Pierson, fidence to one of gloom."

Analysts say that even larger retailers, such as Marks & Spencer and Next, have experienced a slowdown in sales. Smaller shopkeepers are finding the going particularly tough. Official figures released yes-

terday showed that high street sales jumped by 0.7 per cent last month, taking the annual growth rate to 3.9 per cent. The

well but in the last couple of weeks things have gone soggy.

The mood in the last couple of figure came as a surprise following subdued survey results formance earlier in the year.

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The only weak spots were the sales to £20bn. A fifth of shop-continuous and the CDI company and the couple of figure came as a surprise following subdued performance earlier in the year.

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The only weak spots were the sales to £20bn. A fifth of shop-couple of figure came as a surprise following subdued survey results.

The most buoyant area has been household goods, up 2.6 per cent during September-November. There was also a 1.7 per cent increase in department store sales. In year-on-year terms, cloth-

ing and footwear have seen the biggest gains. Recent price increases hit sales in September but they have since picked up smartly. Food sales continue to and "other" stores.

"The momentum behind high street spending is eroding consumers' sensitivity to price increases," said John O'Sullivan, an economist at NatWest Mar-

A new report from Verdict Research said Christmas trade would be the best for eight years although it would not result in an Eighties-style boom. It is presaid they felt able to spend more this Christmas than they did last year. However, Verdict said a leaving their gift-buying to the A third said that by 10 De-

cember they had not bought a single present. Verdict also cautioned that, in spite of its upbeat forecast, not all retailers would share in the upturn.

BA to sever USAir link | Stock Exchange to play Footsie with clubs with sale of 25% stake

Michael Harrison

British Airways will end its increasingly acrimonious relationship with USAir by selling its 24.6 per cent stake in the American carrier. The move follows conditional approval ear-her this month for BA to forge a new transatlantic alliance with American Airlines. BA said it expected to dispose

of the shareholding at a pre-mium to the \$400m it paid in 1993. In accordance with the terms of the original agree-ment, BA has offered to sell the hares back to USAir but neither arrline would disclose the

The decision to terminate the relationship with USAir heightened speculation that BA will

accept the undertakings tied to approval for the alliance with American, principally that the two carriers surrender 168 takeoff and landing slots at Heathrow to rival airlines.

BA, said BA had taken the US-Air decision with regret but he added that such a move had become inevitable. "It would clearly be unwise to pursue an alliance with an unwilling partner. Provided a sale can be achieved at an acceptable price. I intend to bring our relation-ship with USAir to a close." Although USAir is suing BA

Bob Ayling, chief executive of

and American in the US courts, alleging that the alliance breaches anti-trust rules, Mr Ayling said this had not sparked the decision to sell the stake. He added that BA believed the action to be "groundless" USAir welcomed the announcement, describing it as an

important first step in its attempts to become an independent, effective competitor at Heathrow airport. A spokesman added that USAir would continue to pursue its lawsuit against BA and American. Industry observers suggested

BA would seek to raise about \$500m from its stake of various classes of untraded preferred stock. If converted into ordinary stock it would be equal to 19.3 million shares. USAir shares were trading at \$22.13 yesterday. When BA made its investment, they were valued at \$15. USAir has 60 days to decide whether to accept BA's offer.

The Stock Exchange is poised to launch a new index made up of football club shares following confirmation yesterday that Newcastle United is seeking a flotation in the new year.

The move to create a separate "Footsie football" sector underlines the game's growing popularity with investors and could provide a further boost to the already soaring share prices of many quoted football teams by attracting index-tracking

It comes as Sheffield United of the Nationwide First Division became the latest club to join the stampede towards the Cityby announcing details of a reverse takeover of Conrad, a quoted Manchester-based sport and leisure group, that values the Bramhall Lane team at just un-Last week Southampton of the

der £10m. Premier League unveiled a simThe soccer stampede into the City shows no signs of abating and an index is being considered for investors, writes Patrick Tooher

ilar deal by merging with Secure Retirement, a property development and healthcare firm. Shares in Sunderland, another top-flight club, will begin trading on Christmas Eve. West Ham, West Bromwich Albion, Aston Villa and Birmingham

City are also keen to float. Of the eight football clubs on the Exchange, only four - Man-chester United, Tottenham Hotspur, Leeds (Caspian) and Millwall - have a quote on the main market. But the addition of Premier League runners-up Newcastle to their ranks will give football the necessary critical mass for its own sector.

"If Newcastle were to float we would consider creating a separate football sector subject to

demand," said Stephen Vale, of FTSE International, the steering committee that decides how

the Exchange indices are con-stituted. "We are keeping it under review Sir John Hall, owner of Newcastle, will map out the club's financial future today by detailing plans for a new stadium and a stock market flotation. An estimated price tag of £140m-£200m would make Newcastle the second-most valuable foot-ball club in Britain after Man-

£400m at last night's record closing price of 615p.
Sir John has spent heavily on players, breaking the world record transfer fee in the summer by paying £15m for striker

chester United, which is worth

Alan Shearer, in a bid to achieve success at home and in

> A bigger stadium and a stock market listing would help offset that outlay and pave the way for further big spending. Newcastle's current home, St James's Park, only has a capacity of 36,610 at a time when the club could attract the 50,000-plus crowds which watch

champions Manchester United at Old Trafford. What investors are banking on is the potential cash bonanza awaiting top clubs from the introduction of pay-per-view football, which is scheduled to take place in 1999. Top clubs like Manchester United, Newcastle

launch to be brought forward to next season to coincide with plans by satellite broadcaster BSkyB to set up 200 digital channels, 60 of which could show pay-per-view sport and

could net up to £2.5bn in annual pay-per-view television income compared with the £670m they get under the terms of a fouryear deal signed between BSkyB and the Premier League. But there remains uncertainty over who owns the rights to televise live games to arm-

Some estimates suggest clubs

chair fans at up to £10 a time
"Nobody knows, not even
Sky," said Michael Edelson, a director of Manchester United who is standing down from the board of Conrad. "But one thing is for sure. Pay-per-view will fundamentally transform Manchester United, Newcastle the financing of not just football, and Leeds are pushing for its but all of sport."

STOCK MARKETS

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Western Resources makes bid for ADT Western Resources, a Kansas- withdraw after the value of its

based energy and security com- stock unexpectedly tumbled. pany, yesterday made a \$2.6bn (£1.55bn) hostile bid for ADT, the largest home security company in the US that is chaired by Michael Asbcroft, the British entrepreneur, writes David Usborne in New York.

unseat Mr Ashcroft and the ADT board.

Only three months ago ADT

There was no immediate reaction from Mr Ashcroft or ADT. Stock in ADT soared 16 per cent in early New York trading, reaching \$23,375 a share. Tuesday's closing price was \$20.125. The offer prices ADT Western Resources said it shares at \$22.50 each, which planned to arrange an emer- would value the entire compagency shareholders meeting to my at \$3.5bn. Western Resources is already the owner of 27 per cent of ADT stock.

Already this week. Western eluded a \$5bn bid by another Resources agreed to buy the US security firm, Republic In- home alarm unit of Westingdustries. Republic was forced to house Electric for \$368m.



'A quick back-of-theenvelope calculation suggests that BZW and Schroders have put their clients at risk with these purchases to the tune of about £2m. This is surely

devotion beyond the

call of duty. But then

again, perhaps not.

Northern share purchase an unusual move

We are not down to the last of the Mo-hicans quite yet, but with just two sur-viving braves from an original tribe of 12 can stewardship of our electricity industry. regional electricity companies, we're not far off. The agreed bid by Entergy of the US for London Electricity will leave just Yorkshire and Southern as independently quoted stock market companies, assuming that Northern's fight for continued independence fails. Notwithstanding a spirited defence from Northern, supported by some loyal followers, it's still hard to see how our friends from the North can survive.

Extinction, then. Does this matter? Ian ang, President of the Board of Trade, plainly takes the view that it does not, for the moment he sanctioned the first US bid for a regional electricity company, it was obvious what was going to happen. One after the other, they would all be taken over. It is always possible Mr Lang didn't anticipate quite how far the process would go, but he's a fool if he didn't. Utilities the world over are predictable lemming-like creatures. The moment anyone does anything remotely new, the others just have to follow.

Whatever the case, there's not much Mr Lang can do about it now. It ought to pointed out, however, that what's hap-pened, though perfectly consistent with the principles of free markets, is not what the Government originally intended. One of the policy objectives of electricity privatisation

will be any worse than the regime now passing into history, but it isn't what the Government wanted when these companies

were floated on the stock market.

C'est la vie. Meanwhile back to Northern and its plucky and somewhat adventurous defence against CE Electric of the US. It's advisers, BZW and Schroders; snapped up 2.3 per cent of the stock yesterday paying just a whisker under the bidder's price for the shares. This is a highly unusual thing in a takener bid for the potential downside for takeover bid, for the potential downside for the shares should the bid fail is quite substantial. Were these firms buying as principal, or on behalf of investment clients? If the latter it is a pretty bizarre thing to have done. A quick back-of-the envelope calculation suggests BZW and Schroders could incur losses of £2m on these purchases should the bid fail. This is surely devotion beyond the

call of duty. But then again, perhaps not.

In the bad old days of the City-pre-Guinness – these purchases would simply have been indemnified and nobody would have been any the wiser. But that kind of thing doesn't happen any longer. Not that Schroders and BZW have to, anyway. Their success fee, should the bid fail, will

probably cover the loss. And there would also be all those additional fees to come from was to create 12 independently quoted fighting the next bid to land on Northern's companies, and expand direct share own-

doing is well within the rules, but if they were achieved at least a mini-miracle for the acting as principal here, they plainly have a British economy. The rate of unemployment commercial interest that goes well beyond that of ordinary Northern shareholders. And if it were investment clients? It is hard to see what interest they would have in buying at these levels. Either way, the advisers have some explaining to do.

Wage inflation fails to catch up

Any remaining doubts about the state of Athe labour market are removed by the fall in unemployment announced yesterday - it's going like a train however much the Government's usual jiggery-pokery with the definition has exaggerated the decline. Yet even more remarkable than seeing headline unemployment below 2 million just in time for Christmas is the fact that underlying earnings growth has remained so low.

Wage inflation has edged up - there is no other way to describe it - from 3.25 per cent

to 4 per cent during the past year. During the same period the number of people claiming unemployment benefit has dropped by more than 300,000, taking the headline jobless rate to its lowest since early 1991. What has happened to the traditional British surge in pay claims when the jobs market gets a little bit livelier than moribund? More economists are starting to argue that labour market deregulation has at last

below which further declines trigger inflation has possibly or probably fallen, allowing the economy to grow a bit faster before running into the inflationary buffers. That

rate - the "non-accelerating inflation rate of unemployment" or "nairu" to economists might be closer to 6 per cent rather than 7 But that does not mean the Chancellor can cheerfully watch the economy build up

steam without resorting to another interest rate increase to moderate the pressure. If unemployment were to continue falling at the same speed as last month, wage inflation would start climbing in no time. That process has already started in the service industries. which have been expanding at a racy pace.

Nonetheless, there has plainly been a sig-

nificant shift in the relationship between the state of the labour market and wage inflation, and for that the Government can take

Brussels takes a flier on Boeing

If we Britons are occasionally tempted to feel threatened by the ebbing away of sovereignty to Brussels, then how on earth must the Americans feel about it? The question is worth asking in light of a bizarre warning from the European Competition Commissioner, Karel van Miert, yesterday that he is going to take a long hard look at the Boe-

ing takeover of McDonnell Douglas.

The astute will have noticed that neither of these companies is European, nor do they have operations of any significance in Europe. Indeed it would be hard to get much further away than the West Coast of the United States. They may also observe that the takeover will do very little to increase Boeing's market dominance, since McDon-nell Douglas, a shadow of its former self, nowadays only accounts for 5 per cent of world airliner deliveries, most of which are in its own backyard.

The observant may furthermore have noticed that Airbus, Europe's home-grown answer to Boeing, has publically asserted that the merger is a non-event which will have nil effect on its position. Indeed, those people who know a thing or two about running airlines think it will actually bolster Air-bus by reminding everyone that it is now the only alternative. None of this seems to bother Mr van Miert who pronounces that the merger is "problematic", the inference being that he will have no hesitation in stamping on it if he does not like the cut of Boeing's cloth.

This is good old-fashioned trade imperalism - albeit of a kind that the Americans themselves have happily engaged in for forty years or more. If Mr van Miert really thinks he is acting in the interests of European consumers, then he should think again.

£1.3bn London Electricity bid agreed

Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

London Electricity became the latest privatised regional electricity business to go under the hammer yesterday when Entergy, the New Orleans-based utility that has circled the company for several weeks, announced an agreed £1.3bn takeover bid.

The announcement came as Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, gave the go-ahead to the £1.3bn agreed bid for East Midlands Electricity by Dominion Resources, the Virginia power group. The Government's decision not to refer the Dominion offer to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission was widely expected, following last Friday's approval of the £782m takeover offer by US generator CalEnergy for

Northern Electric. The bid for London means leaves two of the 12 privatised electricity companies, Yorkshire Electricity and Southern Electric, not facing takeover offers. Most analysts expect them to lose their independence be-

fore a spring general election. Last night another US utility, the Texan company Houston Industries, was thought to be considering mounting a bid. Houston has been widely tipped to buy a REC, and last year mounted an unsuccessful joint attack for Norweb, ultimately bought by North West Water.

705p in cash for London shares, which it said was 27 per cent higher than London's share price of 566.5p on 23 October, the day before the most recent industry began. London shares

ended the day up 13p at 696.5p. Shareholders would also reweek and due to be paid out on 31 January.

sitivity of a US takeover bid for the British capital's power supplier. He pledged to maintain investment and service quality for a its 2 million customers:

Entergy provides electricity to 2.4 million customers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. It had sales last year of \$6.3bn (£3.7bn) and made profits of \$520m. It already owns the company that supplies power to central Melbourne in Australia and has operations in South America and Pakistan.

However, the takeover puts a question mark on London's existing collaboration with Thames Water. Proposals cur-rently under discussion include combining billing systems, procurement and some repair work of the two utilities to cut costs. Entergy said it had not yet spoken to Thames but was expecting to make a "courtesy call". Terry Ogletree, head of En-

Entergy is offering to pay tergy's power division which will run London, said all of London's non-regulated operations would be under review: "We think those kind of ventures are an appropriate thing for Lonwave of bid speculation in the don to pursue, but we just don't know much about them at this stage." Sir Bob Reid, chairman of

ceive the interim dividend payout of 14.3p announced with London's half-yearly results last cuts on top of the 3,000 reduction in London's workforce since privatisation. He said: Ed Lupberger, Entergy chairman, reflected the political senjarring effect on London's employees. They're used to trim-

ming and focusing."
The takeover will also bring cash bonanza for London directors who stand to make more than £965,350 from share options, on which the dividend will also be paid.

Mike Kersey, who moved to London as chief executive last year, will pocket £95,573, while Alan Towers, finance director. will net £783,755, plus £75,625 from the sale of shares in the

The biggest winner is Roger Urwin, former chief executive who left London to manage the National Grid's electricity transmission business last year.

He stands to gain £835,423 from share options, plus a further £665,653 from his shares. Mr Urwin ran into a political storm in 1995 when he made paper profits of £834,000 on previous options.



Bright sparks: Ed Lupberger, chairman and chief executive of Entergy (left) with Sir Bob Reld, chairman of London Electricity. Mr Lupberger pledged to maintain quality for London Electricity's 2 million customers

Northern's advisers buy shares

Northern Electric ran into a furious row with hostile bidder CalEnergy last night as the Newcastle-based group managed to add another surprise plank to its defence campaign. writes Chris Godsmark

With tomorrow's closing date for the bid fast approaching, Schroders, Northern's advisers, and BZW, the company's brokers, disclosed that they had bought shares in Northern and immediately pledged to reject the US offer.

The 1.5 per cent stake bought by BZW, along with the 0.8 per cent acquired by Schroders, means investors holding 17.34 per cent of the company have so far backed the existing management. Both BZW and Schroders paid 645p for the shares, well above the market price. Northern's share price dropped by 5.5p to 630p, which is 20p below CalEnergy's in-

creased 650p bid price. CalEnergy is thought to have complained furiously to the

Takeover Panel, though advisers to the US predator admitted the tactic did not appear to break bid rules. But a spokesman said: "We believe that this action is clearly designed to frustrate the bid and have taken the appropriate action."

Though Northern is not believed to have been warned about the share purchases beforehand, the company was clearly delighted at the move. A similar situation occurred during nursing home operator

Goldsborough's defence against a hostile takeover bid by rival Westminster Healthcare over the summer. In the last few hours SBC Warburg, Goldsborough's advisers, bought a 4 per cent stake in the target.

Three big City investors have already backed the Northern board: the Prudential, Northern's biggest shareholder with 11.35 per cent. Foreign & Colonial with 1.5 per cent and another institution believed to be M&G with just over 2 per cent. | 365.5p.

Wessex plans buybacks

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

Wessex Water yesterday revealed a plan to spend £240m on share buybacks combined with a move to buy out most of the stake held by its biggest outside investor.

The latest water industry buyback, which effectively means Wessex is buying up 25 per cent of its share capital, will see the 19.5 per cent stake held by Waste Management International (WMI), a US waste company, reduced to just 3.3 per cent.

Nicholas Hood, Wessex chairman, said £157m would be spent on buying up 43.5 million non-voting "B" and "C" shares, all of which were issued to WMI after privatisation, along with a small number of the US

group's ordinary shares.

A further £79.5m will go on buying back 10 per cent of the ordinary shares held by other investors. The deal needs to be anextraordinary general meeting in the new year.

Wessex was left with surplus cash after the Government recently blocked its attempt to buy neighbouring South West Water. The rival bidder, Severn Trent, this week also announced it had spent £122m buying back per cent of its shares. The buyback will raise Wessex's gearing to around 40 per cent.

Mr Hood said the joint venture waste management company between Wessex and WMI would continue as before, though the buyback did not prechude further acquisitions. He explained: "There's a lot of speculation, but all I can say is we are reserving our firepower."

Wessex shares slipped 0.5p to

First Choice cuts dividend by a quarter

Tom Stevenson City Editor

First Choice, Britain's thirdlargest tour operator behind Thomson and Airtours, completed a turbulent year yeslerday by cutting its dividend by more than a quarter. Despite the fall, the company's depressed shares closed 4.5p higher at 63p as the City banked on new chief executive Peter Long reversing its recent fortunes

Mr Long was catapulted into his new job just a month after joining First Choice earlier this year when a boardroom coup unseated his predecessor Francis Baron. Yesterday he spelled out a strategy for returning First Choice to a level of profitability that would compare with the rest of the holiday industry.

Profits in the year to October of £10m showed a marked improvement on the £1.3m achieved in 1995, when the whole industry was hit by overcapacity and slumping prices. Mr Long said, however, that those profits represented an unacceptable return on sales, which

topped £1bn for the first time. Commenting on the decision to reduce the full-year dividend from 3.85p to 2.8p, executive deputy chairman lan Clubb said the move was a step towards achieving a "more

appropriate level of dividend cover this year". Earnings per share were 2.1p, failing to match

the dividend payout. Mr Long said current trading was strong, with early bookings for next summer 42 per cent higher than last year, compared with an industry average increase of 31 per cent. By the end of March, the company hopes to have sold 60 per cent of its holidays, a performance that would minimise the risk of a repeat of the summer of 1995 when unsold holidays had to be sold at bargain basement prices.

Analysts welcomed Mr Long's focus on managing capacity and reducing costs. He has a strong reputation within the industry, which has been a graveyard for all but the most experienced specialist operators.

The UK tour operation performed much better than in the previous year but remained in the red with a £200,000 loss compared with an £11.1m shortfall Skibound, a new winter sports arm, chipped in £3.1m.

The worst performance was Canada, where First Choice's Signature subsidiary slumped from a profit of £7.9m to £4.7m. Despite the fall, Mr Clubb said there was no intention of selling the business to Airtours, which has expressed an interest. Investment column, page 20

Gulf Canada approaches Clyde

set alight vesterday by a sighting shot for Clyde Petroleum from Guif Canada Resources, a former subsidiary of the Reichmann property empire, writes Tom Stevenson. Clyde's shares closed 34p higher at 118.5p as dealers banked on Gulf's initial 105p-a-share approach being nothing more than an opening gambit in a hoty contested bid.
Gulf's Texan president and
chief executive, James Bryan,
known in the oil business as JP, called Clyde's chairman, Malcolm Gourlay, just before 7am yesterday to warn him of the imminent hostile approach. By 11am, Clyde had issued a

statement rejecting Gulf's offer

as "unsolicited and wholly un-

timing of the approach as unfortunate, coming he said, as the City was beginning to rerate Clyde's shares. As a second liner with a bias towards oil production rather than exploration, Clyde has traded at a discount to its peer group. He rejected Gulf's claim that

the exercise and sale of options 81p undermined their argument that the bid undervalued the company. The numbers of shares involved, he said, were insignificant compared to the holdings directors had retained. Mr Bryan described Clyde's record in exploration as "miserable", but said he had great re-

Mr Gourlay described the done in creating a four-pronged business with operations in Australia and Indonesia as well as the Dutch and British sectors of the North Sea. The deal, Mr Bryan said, fitted in with Gulf's ambition of expanding its geo-graphical spread beyond its North American and Indonesian

He said the £432m offer was by Clyde directors this week at a full price, which represented a 35 per cent premium to Clyde's value on 27 November and a 24 per cent premium to the price at which the shares closed on Tuesday night. He compared the price with the 62p value Clyde's broker Hoare Govett had put on the company's net assets and the 84p spect for what Roy Franklin, "going concern" value, which in-Clyde's managing director, had cludes probable and possible oil

and gas reserves as well as the stricter proven variety. The deal sparked a flurry of speculative interest in other smaller oil companies. Cairn Energy, Hardy Oil and Gas and Monument all saw their shares rise sharply yesterday, as did the

larger players, Enterprise and Clyde said it planned to set out the reasons for its rejection of Gulf's offer in a letter to shareholders. In the meantime it said, shareholders should do nothing. Clyde said the terms "fail to take account of the record and prospects of Clyde and the quality of its business

Gulf's shares were off C\$0.25 to C\$9.30 in early trading in

acceptable". Woolwich vows to fight Bill

Banking Correspondent

The Woolwich Building Society pledged yesterday to fight for amendments to a controversial new building societies bill. which Angela Knight, the Treasury minister, said she hoped to introduce to the Commons between late January and early

Cross-party support seemed likely after Mike O'Brien, Mrs Knight's counterpart in the Labour Party, welcomed the publication of the Bill, though he said Labour would still like

an additional rule to exclude members of less than two years' standing from benefiting from

conversion to banks. The Woolwich and the Alliance & Leicester, which plan to convert to banks, have failed to persuade Mrs Knight to reinstate their full five-year protection against takeovers, which they will lose under the Bill if they make a bid for another fi-

nancial institution. The publication of the Bill left lingering doubts about the timing of the flotations of the two societies, although a third, Northern Rock, said it would

proceed as planned. The Woolwich said: "We will lobby to ensure that it is suitably amended on its way through Parliament. Had our board known when it took the decision to convert that this was even a possibility, then we might have chosen to con-

vert in a different way."

The Alliance & Leicester said: "The new draft Bill addresses some of the anomalies but does not, in our opinion, complete the process, and leaves converting societies with a number of issues of concern in the middle of long and costly conversion processes."

cession to the converting societies by requiring a 75 per cent turnout in any vote on removing the five-year ban on takeovers. This increases the obstacles to a hostile bid. The Bill eliminates the need to set aside special reserves on flotation. Without the Bill, some of the converting societies would need to raise extra capital.

Brian Davis, chairman of the **Building Societies Association** and chief executive of the Na-

IN BRIEF

 A temporary thaw in the bitter dispute between Time Warner and Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation was in prospect last night as the two companies confirmed a short-term agreement on the carriage of Mr Murdoch's Fox channel on its cable net-work. The 45-day deal, renewable for further periods of 45 days. will allow Time-Warner customers to view the Super Bowl, the US football championship, which is exclusively broadcast by Fox. But the two sides remain in dispute over Time Warner's refusal to carry Mr Murdoch's 24-hour Fox News in New York City. The disagreement has led to the postponement of the launch of the Warner Channel in the UK, which had been scheduled to appear on Murdoch's BSkyB satellite network on I November. The legal wrangling between the companies was set to continue.

De Beers Consolidated Mines said sales of rough diamonds by the De Beers Central Selling Organisation (CSO) in 1996 were \$4.834bn (£2.9bn), 7 per cent higher than the previous year. Sales in the second half of the year were \$2.086bn, 5 per cent higher than during the same period in 1995.

 British Telecommunications will increase the retail prices for calls to services operated by One2One and Orange personal communications networks from 19 February. The new prices reflect increased payments which BT has to make to One2One and Orange. BT said calls would be charged at 30p a minute between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday; 20p a minute during weekday evenings and overnight; and 10p a minute at weekends. This compares with the current rate of 16.71p a minute during the day and 9.85p a minute at all other times.

 The Department of Trade and Industry said it accepted undertakings from Service Corporation International to "remedy the adverse effects on competition identified by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission" as a result of the acquisition by SCI of Plantsbrook Group. The MMC recommended that SCI should be required to divest individual funeral directors' businesses in 10 localities and not to acquire any further funeral directing businesses in these localities without prior government approval. The MMC also recommended that undertakings should be sought in relation to disclosure by SCI of its ownership of funeral businesses.

• The European Commission opened an inquiry into the state aid for Thomson SA and Thomson Multimedia, which was notified to the commission in October ahead of proposals for Thomson SA's privatisation. The measures concern a capital injection of about Ffr11bu (£1.3bn) into the parent company Thomson SA tionwide Building Society, urged and the possibly excessively high price paid by the French state to Thomson SA for its shares in Credit Lyonnais. The commistant of getting the Bill passed.

ITSE 350 SEAQ VOLA

Gits Index

Book into First Choice for a recovery

It's been quite a year at First Choice, the former Owners Abroad tour op-erator that sits uneasily in third place behind market leaders Thomson and Airtours.

The revolving doors have been spinsex boardroom that it came as no surprise yesterday to have results presented by a new executive deputy chairman, who introduced a new chief executive and a finance director who is leaving next month for the same job at Manchester United.

The figures they showed investors were a pretty dismal affair - profits of just £10m for the year to October were a lot better than the £1.3m achieved in the previous year which included the Electra Investment Trust is puzzled that represented a pathetic return.

Airtours generated a pre-tax margin of more than 5 per cent in more or less the same period, setting a stretching benchmark for its smaller rival. No b 'rprise, in those circumstances, that the dividend should be pegged back to what the company hopes is a new base.

The new chief executive, Peter Long.

has actually set himself a slightly less demanding margin target, a return on sales of 4 per cent within two or three

But, given the volatility of the holiday market, a persistent mismatch between the company's aircraft fleet and the holidays it sells to fill those seats, and continuing problems in Canada where First Choice makes a quarter of its sales, clearing that hurdle will be a real achievement

The good news is that the City feels confident that the company is finally in the hands of someone who is in with a shout of turning it round.

Francis Baron, the previous head, who walked off with £640,000 after falling out with other directors, was seen as having too little experience of the business to compete seriously in a cut-throat market where non-special ists can and do get taken to the

First Choice has already sold 25 per cent of its capacity for next summer, better than the 17 per cent it had reached this time last year.

Bookings are 42 per cent up on last year's admittedly depressed comparable figure. The company has a credible brand and is not embroiled in the Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry into the industry because it has no ownership link with a travel agent, unlike its bigger rivals. Financially it appears to be in reasonable shape and it knows it could always sell its difficult Canadian operation to Airtours if the need arose.

On the basis of forecast profits of £25m in the current year, the shares, up 4.5p yesterday to 63p, trade on only 10 times expected earnings per share. Getting up to the targeted margin

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

ning so violently in the company's Sus-would put the shares on a multiple of ments against a couple of hundred at only 5 or 6.

Airtours and Thomson are the better companies, but First Choice offers real recovery potential.

Moaning becomes Electra

disastrous summer of 1995, but compared with sales of more than £1bn they to net asset value while 3i is at a 5 per cent premium. Both are that rare breed of trust specialising in venture capital investments and put most of their money in unquoted stocks.

There are differences that explain part of the discrepancy. 3i is bigger, and is in the FTSE 100, so it has to be a component of indexed portfolios, unlike Electra, which has not had much of a recent flow of new investors. 3i is also largely a UK business, while much of Electra's investment is in the US.

3i's performance has been less volatile in the past because it has a spread of several thousand invest-

Electra, which the market therefore regards as making it a worse bet in any. future recession. The trust is just that little more dependent than 3i on con-

tinued steady growth of the economy.

There are also the first signs of overheating in the venture capital market, with some prices becoming silly, which might affect the larger deals in which Electra specialises rather more than 3i.

Yet this cannot explain the whole of the difference in the discount at which the two shares are trading, especially after yesterday's full-year results for Electra, which show an 18.5 per cent: increase in net asset value to 522p a share, half as much again as the in-crease in the all-share index. Michael Stodddart, Electra's chairman, can boast of being well ahead of the index over both three and five years.

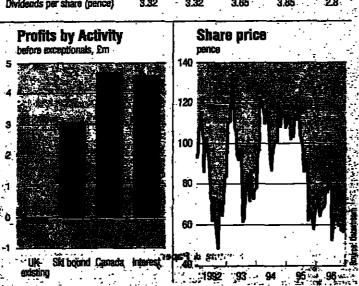
In the latest year, the dividend rose 11.3 per cent, partly because of a new accounting standard that forces investment trusts to split management expenses and interest equally between capital and revenue accounts. The double-digit increase is a one-off, but Mr Stoddart promises a more pro-

First Choice: at a glance

Market value: £151.2m, share price 63.5p

Five year record	. 1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Pre-tax profils (£m)	25.5	3.40	. 16.3 .	1.3	10.0
				XXXX.	

Dividends per share (pence)



paigning for a rerating of the shares, has arranged for private investors to buy them through Fleming Investment Trusts Share Plan (Fleming is halfowner of Electra's management company) and he is promoting the stock to new institutions. The shares rose 5p to 425.5p. On these figures, he is right that the discount to net asset value is etill unjustifiably large. Good value.

Dawson storms to treble profits

Shares in newspaper wholesaler Daw-son Holdings have been storming per-formers since they graduated from the Rule 4.2 market to become one of the founder members of AIM in June 1995.

They have more than quadrupled since then, rising another 225p to 2,175p yesterday on news that profits in the year to September had almost trebled from £3.5m to £9.8m. Earnings per share rose from 36p to 132p while the dividend was raised to 40p (10p).

Dawson has built a leading position id its two main markets - newspaper distribution and library services which both have high financial and

The integration of Faxon, the US library supplies business bought in 1994 s largely complete. That deal made Dawson number, two in the world subscription management market for academic and corporate library customers, ahead of Blackwell's of Oxford Earlier this year Dawson paid £15.4m for the 50 per cent it did not come in family no Surridge Dawson

technological barriers to entry.

own in family-run Surridge Dawson, the UK's third-largest newspaper distributor after WH Smith and John Menzies with a 14 per cent share.

The move, which added £29m to

profits, cleared the way for a move to the main market, which Dawson expects to complete in the summer. A 10-for-one share consolidation is also planned to make the shares even more liquid - they are already one of the most actively traded on AIM. A. name change is also on the cards there are two other quoted Dawsons, textile group Dawson International and

transport company Dawsongroup.
Fears that supermarket grant Tesco
might launch a price war in wholesal. ing claiming local supply deals left su-permarkets short of best-selling-magazines, have receded in recent months and Dawson is confident of: another successful yéar.

With the results comfortably ahead of house broker UBS's £9m forecast, analysts were busy raising their esti-mates, though no new numbers were immediately available. However, the historic rating of 16 still looks undemanding given the impressive growth record. Good value.

Rexam to sell businesses with £303m turnover

Patrick Tooher

The future of 4,000 jobs hung in the balance last night after Rexam, the paper and packag-ing group, put 20 of its businesses up for sale as part of a wide-ranging restructuring pro-

The move is part of plans announced three months ago by new management to revive Resam's flagging fortunes.

In a statement Rexam, formerly Bowater, said it was "inappropriate" at this stage to speculate about how much the sales might raise.

However, the businesses earmarked for disposal have a combined annual turnover of £303m, operating assets of £161m and made an operating loss of £2m.

They cover some packaging and coated paper businesses, printing, beauty, food and beverage and some industrial operations. Only healthcare and building and engineering are unaffected.

The decision to sell these companies reflects Rexam's increasing focus and the strengthening of its interests in its seven sectors," said Rolf Borjesson, the Swedish chief executive who succeeded David Lyon in

July:
"We are seeking to improve the returns from our businesses and will concentrate on those areas that offer the best growth opportunities."
Rexam, which has already

sold businesses with combined sales of £216m this year, has appointed a full-time management team called Octagon to carry out the disposal programme. It will be led by David Jones, who has been chief executive of Rexam's containers division since 1995.

The object is to achieve an orderly and efficient sale with the least disruption to employ-ees, customers and suppliers," said Mr Borjesson. "They are all sound businesses and we hope to get a decent price for them." Mr Boriesson expects Rex-



businesses and we hope to get a decent price for them'

am's staff numbers to fall to about 23,000 once the disposal programme is complete and to see its wage bill fall according-

Rexam's objective is to achieve a 25 per cent return on net assets across the group, but Mr Borjesson stressed that the decision to sell off non-core assets was not solely based on this criteria.

Shares in Rexam, as high as 409p three months ago, rose 4.5p to 341p, largely on relief that the company was taking action on promises made at the interim results stage.

back favour with investors in the City ever since it issued two profits warnings in three months last year after being hit by volatile raw material costs and customer destocking. In July Rexam was ejected

from the FTSE 100 index of blue chip companies after the shares hit a four-year low.

In the six months to June Rexam reported pre-tax profits of £77m, down from £112m a year ago, and warned that it was cautious about the outlook for the second half of the year, blaming generally flat industrial demand, particularly in the Rexam has been trying to win - UK and continental Europe.

BRADFORD & BINGLEY'S NEW RATES OF INTEREST EFFECTIVE FROM 20 DECEMBER 1996

Account	Balance Gr		Net Equiv. Se p.a.	Gross & p.a.	Net Equit. % p.a.
		-	0.20		
TIMESAVER*	£1+ (Base Rate)			-	_
	+0012	0.50	0.40	-	_
	£500+	1.00	0.80	-	-
	<u> 500+</u>	1.60	1.28	-	-
	+000,013	2.10	1.68	-	-
	£25,000+	2.60	208	-	-
Premier Deposit*	+12	0.25	0.20	-	-
	+0013	1.60	1.28	-	-
	+000,012	3.00	2.40	-	- .
	£25,000+	3.75	3.00	-	-
Firu Chaice ^s	£50+	1.25	1.00	-	-
(Including Bonus)	£500+	2.55	2.04	-	-
	£2.500+	2.85	2.28	-	-
	£10.000+	3.40	272	-	-
	£25,000+	5.80	5.04	_	-
Bonus Account	£500+	2.60	208	_	_
(Including Bonis)	£2.500+	2.90	2.32	_	_
	£10.000+	3.45	276	-	_
	£45,000+	3.85	3.08	_	_
One Month Notice	1500+	2.00	1.60	1.95	1.56
OHE WANT MAKE	£2.500+	2.30	1.84	2.20	1.76
	£10,000+	2.80	2.24	2.65	<u>9 19</u>
	£10,000+	3.50		_	2.52
	F50,(N)()+	4.80	2.64 3.20	3.15	2.52 3.04
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		3.55	264 284	3.20	2.56 2.76
	£5,000+ £10,000+	4 35	2.84 3.48	3.45	2.76 3.36
	570,000+	4.60	3,68	4.30	•
	£ 41,000-	440	3,68	1.40	5.52
	1.H1) (XKI)+	523	3.92 4.20	4 79 5 65	3.76 4.04
Bonus 120 Account	E54FO+	5 1 0	1.52	5 2n	
theinding Banes	150,000	5.80	4.61	533	1.16 1.44
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Special Interest Bond - Issue 2	110,000	5.5.1 6 15	42%	_	-
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40710100					
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Account	Balance G	Anne. .c.q 7' 2001	al Interest Net Equiv % p.2.	Strachi Gross's p.a.	Net Equin. 72 p.a.
	£5,000+	5.10		-	
Prantege Board			1,08	1.90	2 02
	25,00k	5 60	4.18	5.40	1.32
	150,000± £100,000±	3.70 5.80	4.36	3.50	1.40
	71181/14394	5 (8)	1.64	5 60	4.48

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Pearson results cheer shares

Pearson, the media and infora better-than-expected trading Channel 5 retuning budget statement, sending the shares would be sharply higher than sharply higher in London. The originally anticipated, hitting shares put on 22p to close at about £37m; or 24 per cent of

of the strengthening pound, stake in Britain's soon-to-bewhich some had feared would launched fifth terrestrial depress US and European rev-channel. Even that figure was enues, would have no material effect on 1996 earnings, which are likely to reach about £250m. of Channel 5 Broadcasting,

In Brief

priced at 57p each.

Thomas Potts (1)

3.92

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472

1.00

Tax-Exempt 's pa

Television and Penguin Books. the reviser F150m total forecast The company said the effects - in line with Pearson's equity

seen last night as conservative. David Elstein, chief executive Pearson said it would take a said the budget for retuning the

Bullough plans to sell six non-core units to a consortium of funds led by Tufton Capital and BancBoston Capital for the val-

ue of their net assets, which at the end of October was £6.5m. Bullough also announced the disposal to Princedale Group of

the business and certain assets of its Beanstalk unit for about

MMT Computing has acquired Webbins, a provider of soft-ware products and services to the utilities sector. MMT said it

had paid £500,000 cash for 51 per cent of Webbins with a fur-

ther £370,000 payable subject to Webbins achieving a minimum

3.248 preference shares they hold. The 1.09 million shares are

Siebe said that new orders for its industrial control system

totalled more than £150m. The company said the orders, taken

internationally from customers across the chemical, oil, gas, power

and semiconductor industries, confirmed the pre-eminent posi-

tion of the Intelligent Automation Series system as the world's fastest-growing industrial process control system. Major project

In vesterday's Stock Market report a reference to retail sales was inadvertently attributed to Eddie George, Governor of the

Bank of England, instead of Sean Eddie, an analyst at NatWest

Company Results

First Choice Holdays (F) 1.01bn (534m) 10.0m (1.3m) 1.5p (-3.3p) 2.8p (3.85p)
Hartstone Broop (1) 95.6m (105m) -2.10m (2.83m) -0.8p (0.8p) 0.16p (0.16p)

0.34m (-j

Creligation's Hatherally (I) 5 04m (5.20m) -1.39m (0.51m) -22p (7p) . - (4)

Tornover £ Pre-tax £ EPS

2.27m (0.04m) -0.06m (0.02m) -0.27p (2.92p) -1-) -

428m (332m) 9.8m (3.5m) 132p (36p) 28p (-)

7.22m (8.12m) 2.69m (-1.57m) 3.8p (-5.1p) -- (-)

8.63m (7.66m) 1.11m (1.07m), 5.57p (5.35p) 1.7p (1.6p)

52.9m (64.8m) 2.4m (-1 14m) -10.63p (-5.45p) 2p (2p)

0.24m (-0.48m) 1.81p (-5.47p) - (-)

(0.13p (-) 0.0533pr (-)

orders for its control systems were up 30 per cent this year.

£200,000 after tax for the financial year to 31 August 1997.

But the company, which owns would be required to retune costs to about £12, we can exthe Emancial Times, Thames households in the Channel 35 pect that the extra retuning areas of the country, bringing cheered the stock market with conceded that its share of the the total to about £180m, as reported in The Independent yes-

terday. Pearson's share would be about £45m, and not the entire £180m, as suggested by The Independent's headline yesterday.

Mr Elstein said that the shareholders of Pearson - which include Pearson, United News & Media and Luxembourgbased CLT - were "relaxed" about the higher budget, because each increase in the

and 1997; in line with expectathe new service, would be about ket for Channel 5. "As long as tions. £120m. Another £50-£60m we keep our per-household costs will be covered within two years of the channel's launch." he said vesterday. He added that differences in

the forecasts of the eventual retuning costs were due to uncertainty about the number of households likely to fall within the Channel 35 catchment areas. "We just don't know how many homes we will have to retune," he said, adding that all forecasts were "guesstimates".

Pearson said its television subsidiary saw its operating £5m charge for reorganisation Channel 37 frequency, one of number of households retuned profits rise strongly in 1996, of its back office in both 1996 two awarded to Channel 5 for would expand the eventual mar-

Electra doubles its valuation of Eversholt stake

Peter Rodgers Financial Editor

 Pascoes Group is raising £527,000 through a placing and open Electra Investment Trust said offer, and forecast a pre-tax profit for the year to December of yesterday it had doubled the valat least £175,000. Holders of ordinary shares may participate in uation of its stake in Eversholt, the offer on a basis of one new share for every 2.706 existing shares, a privatised train leasing comwhile preference shareholders can receive one new share for every

pany, to £34m, only eight months after the Government sold it. The unusual decision to revalue so soon after the purchase was prompted by the £825m sale in the summer of £825m sale in the summer of there were no plans to put the Porterbrook, another of the stake up for sale. three former British Rail leasing companies.

In the takeover by Stagecoach, Porterbrook was valued at about £225m more than the Government had been paid a few months earlier. The revaluation, the first public disclosure by an Eversholt shareholder, confirms that the leasing comnanies were sold cheaply.

Analysis said that Électra was being conservative even after the revaluation and that its 21 per cent stake in Eversholt could be worth several times the £34m at which it is now in the books.

The disclosure is also likely to reinforce speculation about the future of both Eversholt and Angel, the two remaining independent train leasing comtogether own the entire rolling

stock of the rail network. Angel, which is controlled by Nomura, the Japanese securities house, has already disclosed that it is looking for a

But Michael Stoddart, chairman of Electra, which was one of half a dozen venture capital funds that backed the management buyout of Eversholt, said

The valuation does not disclose the split between equity and debt in Electra's holding, so it is not clear what the equity portion is worth. However, Porterbrook was financed mainly by debt so that when it was sold to Stagecoach, the bus operator, the small amount of equity soared in value.

This brought a £65m profit to three directors who took part in the original buyout. Eversholt, which was bought for £585m, is also thought to be highly geared.

Mr Stoddart, who was announcing an 18.5 per cent in Electra's net asset value over the year to September to £386m, also warned that the price of management buyouts in which it specialises has risen sharply, and a panies. The three leasing firms lot are being sold by auction.

Fairey set to issue offer for Burnneid

City Editor

The acrimonious tit-for-tat exchange of statements between specialist engineer Fairey and its £51m bid target, measuring instruments maker Burnfield, continued yesterday. Brian McGowan, Burnfield's chairman, reiterated his call for shareholders to ignore the one-for-four share offer launched by Fairey on Tuesday.

Further action is expected today with sources expecting Fairey to issue its official offer document, which will set the 60-

day bid clock ticking.

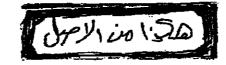
Mr McGowan said: "This offer is an attempt to force shareholders to agree to an unacceptably low price within a limited time period at the expense of the future benefits that the board expects the recent restructuring and the proposed acquisition of LDS will bring." Fairey's hostile approach is

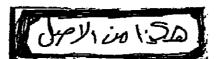
conditional on Burnfield shareholders voting against their company's proposed acquisition of LDS, a privately owned vibration equipment group, and a pro-posed rights issue to fund the purchase. Burnfield shareholders are due to vote on the deal and cash call at an extraordinary meeting on 30 December.

Burnfield added: "Shareholders should not be diverted from the attractions of the LDS acquisition nor be misled over its beneficial impact on Burn-field. The board is pleased to have negotiated the acquisi-tion of a high quality business which will have such a strategic

impact on the group." Burnfield said Fairey had made much of the price it proposed to offer, but it claimed the 135p cash-alternative offer represented a premium of only 23 per cent to its price just before the announcement last week of the planned acquisition and rights issue.

Fairey said Burnfield was wrong to use that price as a basis for comparison because it failed to account for the shortterm dilution the acquisition would imply to its eps. Fairty said its offer represented #48 per cent premium to Burnfield's price just before it made its bid.





market report/shares

Takeover tonic leaves the Footsie in a festive mood FTSE 100 4018.2 +38.6 FTSE 250 4380.5 +16.5 FISE 350 1994.0 +16.7 SEAQ VOLUME 930.7m shares, 33,269 bargains Gilts Index 93.81 -0.25 Share spotlight

Hopes that the traditional Christmas share spree is about da's Gulf Resources, jumped to enliven the stock market were rekindled by the sudden outbreak of takeover fever. Five bids in two days was the sort of medicine needed after the uncertainty created by Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Fed. Footsie scored a 38.6-point

gain to 4,018.2 in often busy trading. Although relief at the US stand-still on interest rates was tempered by fears of a domestic increase in the new year, Footsie ended at its best level of the day with secondand third-line shares also joining the party.

The unexpected Canadian assault on Clyde Petroleum and the USEntergy's descent on London Electricity increased the excitement already generated by FKI's bid for Newman Tonks and Fairey's move for

ed the £432m shot from Cana-

above the bid price to 118.5p. The oil sector has looked ripe for takeover action with the likes of Lasmo in the front line. The appearance of the Canadian predator underlined the suspicion that a round of corporate, action could

The Clyde battle lifted Caim Energy 21.5p to 411.5p; Hardy Oil & Gas 23.5p to 296.5p and Monument Oil & Gas 4p to 65p. Enterprise Oil, up 24p to

595.5p. and Lesmo, 7.5p to 227p, were also engulfed in the oil flare. London Electricity, the latest regional to fall, accepted a 705p a share offer, the shares

gained 13p to 696.5p. The two remaining electricity groups still without a suitor, Southern and Yorkshire, edged ahead by a few



MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year pendence seem numbered. from Western Resources which The London Electricity deal already has 27 per cent.

Abbey National jumped 14.5p to 736.5p, a high. There is a strong conviction takeover occurred a few hours before Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, cleared the activity will break out among Dominion Resources offer for East Midlands Electricity. financials and Abbey is seen as a likely participant in any ac-The green light was exted after the clearance of CE Electric's bid for Northern There is a lingering story Electric and it would be strange indeed if the Entergy offer failed to clear the Whitethat it could merge with Pru-

hall burdle. The other bid involved ADT, Michael Ashcroft's security group which is now based in Bermuda and is on the fringe

Commercial Union, touted of the market. The shares rose 162.5p to 1,375p in response to a bid

room put on a further 3.5p to

144p.
Pearson, the media group, perked up 22p to 711.5p following its trading update and Rank added 12p to 442p ahead of a trading statement, expected today.

Siebe, the engineer, gained 16.5p to 1,008p, a peak, after collecting industrial control

orders worth £150m. Sears, the Selfridges group, issed the party, courtesy of Merrill Lynch. The investment house lowered its profit forecast from £115m to £100m and said the shares were a sell. be in the running for an adventure in another area, per-

Nat West Securities was also in downgrade mode. It lowered its Coats Viyella forecasts from £103m to £82m and £172m to as the target for a host of companies, gave up a little of its speculative exuberance, easing 6.5p to 686.5p. But General £150m and trimmed its Respectations from £327m to £317m and £454m to £345m. CV rose 1.5p to 128.5p

Accident and Royal Sun Al-liance made headway. Among insurance brokers Willis Cor-pawson Holdings, the media group, jumped 225p to 2,175p following profits up from Montague, the gold miner £3.5m to £9.8m. The shares ar-where it has a 49 per cent in rived on AIM last year at terest, is about to start legal

£3.1m cash-raising exercise at field in Indonesia. Bre-X is 23p left the shares of the soap- linking with Barrick, the Camaker off 12.5p at 27.5p. They have come down from 129p in

the past year.
Oxford Biomedica continoxford Biomedica continued to struggle towards its 88p placing. The shares put on another 5p to 60.5p against the 42.5p hit when dealings started or Brider.

ed on Friday. Eidos, the computer games group, jumped 55p to 732.5p. It is thought to be doing well in the Christmas sales rush. ABN Amro Hoare Govett is looking for profits of £9m this year with £14.5m pencilled in for next. Last year the company, which has never made a profit, suffered a £1.9m loss.

Share Price Data

The Independent Index

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes Vol'000 Stock

FTSE 100 Index hour by hour

from 116p this year, rose 5p to 60.5p, largely on hopes Creighton's Naturally's has an estimated \$21bn gold nadian giant, to develop the

Taking Stock

had its best day yet, achieving a £32m turnover. Lloyds Abbey Life was the main element accounting for nearly £22m of the turnover.

site. Montague sold the In-

donesian land to Bre-X and

☐Frederick Cooper, the doo handles group, rose 5p to 40p. Newman Tonks, fighting a bid from FKI, has 4.19 per

890000 General Elect. 700000 770000 Gieso Welkome 690000 750000 Vocisione 650000 750000 REXAM 848000

14.00 40116 up 320 15.00 40091 up 295 16.00 40144 up 348

Prices are in starting except where stated. The yield is last year a dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price-barnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional larms, other details, it Ex rights a Ex-dividend a Ex at a Unisted Securities Market's Suspended pp Partly Paid pm Nil Paid Shares. ‡ AIM Stock Source: FT Information

FTSE 100 - Reel-time 00 Sterling Rates 04 Privatisation issues
UK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 05 Water Shares
UK Company News 02 Wall St Report 20 Electricity Sheres
Foreign Exchange 03 Tokyo Market 21 High Street Banks

Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of The independent index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 123 333.

11.00 40082 up 286

Clyde, which quickly reject- coppers; their days of inde-

dential Corporation, up 4p at 479p. But some feel it could

haps fund management.

| Timestage | Section | Se

\$\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{2

77 | 8 | About | 17 | 17 | 28 | 186 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287 | 287

10 | Book | Sept |

Weightless economy produces a new breed of superstar

hen Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Fed-Y Y eral Reserve, speaks, anybody with any sense listens carefully - not simply because his remarks will shift the markets, but because he is one of tech services, including softthe most perceptive economic ware development and gene commentators around. In one research, but also financial deof his less heavily reported speeches last summer, Mr Greenspan noted that the economy weighs about the same now as it did a century ago, even though GDP has grown 20-fold.

On the face of it this is a very odd remark to make about economic growth, but weightlessness, rather than any of the fashionable notions such as globalisation or trade, is the key to understanding the profound changes sweeping over the industrial countries. People think of things of economic value as having physical presence, mass and weight. This is less and less true. The economy is dematerialising.

A quarter of a century ago, the industries that used to create the most value added were a telling description - the "heavy industries" and the rest of manufacturing: steel, ships, machine tools, cars and washing machines. New electronics, miniaturisation and new materials steadily allowed the same amount of value to be embedded in less weight. For example, cars are smaller, use less steel and are becoming increasingly sophisticated with power steering, stereos and on-board navigational com-puters. The value added has climbed, the weight has fallen.

There are many examples of physical goods becoming lighter. But more important is the switch in the industrial economies away from manufacturing and towards services. Although we all still want to own cars, and shop for food and clothes, and always will, the share of our income spent on services has risen sharply.

The category "services"

nity and personal" services, such as haircuts, cleaning, babysitting, teaching, nursing, public sector. Then there are what could be described as hiing, making programmes for satellite TV or pop videos. They depend on modern information technology and telecommunications, and have much higher value added than the traditional services.

These industries are growing like Topsy thanks to a regularity known as Moore's Law, after Gordon Moore, Intel chairman. It is that the computing power of a microchip doubles approximately every 18 months. This rate of technical advance has brought prices down incredibly rapidly. Recent figures published in the Computer Industry Almanac, the annual Bible of the industry, showed that the US has two computers for every five people, up from one for every 10,000 people 30 years ago, and predicted that it would be one computer for every two people by the end of the century. The trend has advanced furthest across the Atlantic: world-wide computer density is only about a tenth of the US level. However, there is no definitive empirical evidence on the extent to which any individual weightless, although this is something that both the Federal Reserve and Bank of England are keen to gather more

data on, That caveat aside, the interesting question is what kind of implications weightlessness has for the economy. Danny Quah, a professor at the London School of Economics and a pioneer of weightless economics, identifies several. Two are particularly interesting. One is the trend that many people tend to describe as globalisation, the diminishing importance of national bound-



DianeCoule

There has been a switch away from manufacturing and towards

services. Although we all still want to own cars, and shop for food and clothes, the share of our income spent on

services has

risen sharply'

aries. Professor Quah says: "With dematerialisation, the natural marketplace is unbounded." There are no obvious geographical restrictions on where trade in such products can take place. In fact, it can be hard to figure out where the economic activity is happening

The financial markets are a prime example of this. Consider the survey of foreign exchange trading conducted latest, published during the summer, showed that in 1995 more than \$1,000bn worth of currencies was traded daily. London was the main centre, wi<u>th New York and Tokyo</u> a distant second and third.

per 1,000 people

1975-09

1980 - 14 A

1989 192

1991i'' 245

1992 267

1993 - 297

1994 - 329

1995 365

1997 433

2000 580

Source: Computer:

Industry Almanach, 1996

think this kind of inequality is

undesirable because it is be-

coming easier for people to be-come stars - all it really takes

There is no need for huge

capital investment to break into dematerialised industries.

He thinks that, just as people do not condemn lottery winners

because everybody has a chance at winning millions for

only £1, the opportunities for

mobility will compensate for

This might be over-opti-mistic, for the increase in in-

the increase in inequality.

1985

US World

0.0₹

.1.2

18.5

25.3

29.1

33,7

38.8

44.9

57.0

The first thing to note is that the BIS, the world's foremost banking authority, can only get this information by sending a questionnaire to the banks concerned, asking for their es-timates of the size of their business. Second, the banks filling out the forms assign the trades to one place rather than another according to where their traders have a desk and book their profits or losses. But the dealing is transacted between computers located around the world, and the assignation of trades to London rather than New York is notional. It is not really London that is the biggest centre for foreign exchange trades, but cyberspace.

A second key implication, ac-cording to Professor Quah, is that dematerialisation will bring greater inequality. It re-inforces the "winner-takes-all" trends in modern economies. A classic paper by US economist Sherwin Rosen, published in 1981, identified the "superstar" phenomenon. Some in-dividuals in fields such as movies can attract incomes far in excess of the average whenever their extra output has almost no extra cost (a Hollywood actor only has to act once and requires no more effort to be seen by another viewer) and wherever reputation will increase demand for that individual rather than an-

equality in the UK and US during the past decade has been controversial. Whether other Trivial differences in talent are magnified into big ingovernments can do anything about it is a different matter. equalities in earnings. The phenomenon is spread-What politicians will be able to do in the weightless economy ing across the weightless industries - not just the field of is going to be very different entertainment but also areas from the policy levers they can such as medicine, where techpull now, if a growing share of nology allows stars to spread economic activity takes place not only beyond regional or national boundaries but also their expertise over a wider market through operations via beyond measurement. video links, for instance.

Alliance finds a plum present for Ms Knight

Is Peter White, head of Alliance & Leicester Building Society trying to butter up Angela Knight, the Treasury Minister? And could this have anything to do with her Building Society bill which he claims could jeopardise the Alliance float? The answer is yes, if a little Christmas gift is anything to go by. Ms Knight was looking

more than pleased yesterday when she received a Mosimanns Christmas pudding from the persuasive Mr White. Attached to the offering was a little note: "Dear Angela, sorry you couldn't come to our Christmas party last week. Peter." Ms Knight says the freebie pud will adorn the family dinner table on Christmas Day lunchtime.

JP Bryan, the flamboyant Texan who runs Gulf Canada Resources, is bringing a dash of US colour to the stuffy British oil sector. "JP", as he is called, learned his trade in Texas and speaks with the "tobacco in cheek" style drawl straight out of Hollywood movies. For discussions on Gulf's hostile tilt at Clyde Petroleum he wore golden bullet cuff links and a tie emblazoned with big pink pigs.

Well, it's pigs to the slaughter," he said, referring rather unkindly to Clyde. Another Texanism was: "We're buying the steak, not the siz-zle." Whatever can he mean?

Are tactics getting dirty on day one of the Gulf Canada-Clyde Petroleum bid? The Gulf team were yesterday saying that their man "JP" had tried in vain to telephone the Clyde top brass to inform them that he was gunning for their company. He was unsuccessful, Gulf's advisers said, because the Clyde clan was out enjoying a spot of shooting.
This echoed the plight of Sir
Rocco Forte a year ago, who
was including in similar sport
in Yorkshire when the Granada bid blew up. The initial story went that it was Clyde

chairman Malcolm Gourlay

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Peter White: Catering for ministerial tastes

and had been forced to scurry back to London to get all his ducks in a row.

Mr Gourlay hotly denied this, saying he could not be contacted at 7am because he was on his way back to London from his Hertfordshire home. "And anyway, I don't shoot."

Later thoughts turned to Clyde managing director Roy Franklin - that it was be who was shooting when his com-pany was being shot at. No denial was forthcoming.

London's Father Christmases must be working overtime this year if trade at the Stafford Hotel in London is anything to go by. Executive director Terry Holmes has been running Santa's Sanctuaries all week where Santas benefit from a Happy Hour between 5.30-6.30pm.

But it seems that even the prospect of a half-price sharpener after hard hours in the grotto is not enough to entice them in. So far only around 20 Santas have been turning up. The hard core consists of professionals so dedicated to their craft that developing a red nose for the day job is seen as method acting.

London Electricity chairman Sir Bob Reid was left cursing his luck at the weekend when he first heard talk that talks with Entergy were starting. Sir Bob, who was in Scotland, rushed to Aberdeen airport only to see his British Airways flight grounded due to mechanical problems. He then turned to his mobile phone but decided it was too risky

Inchca

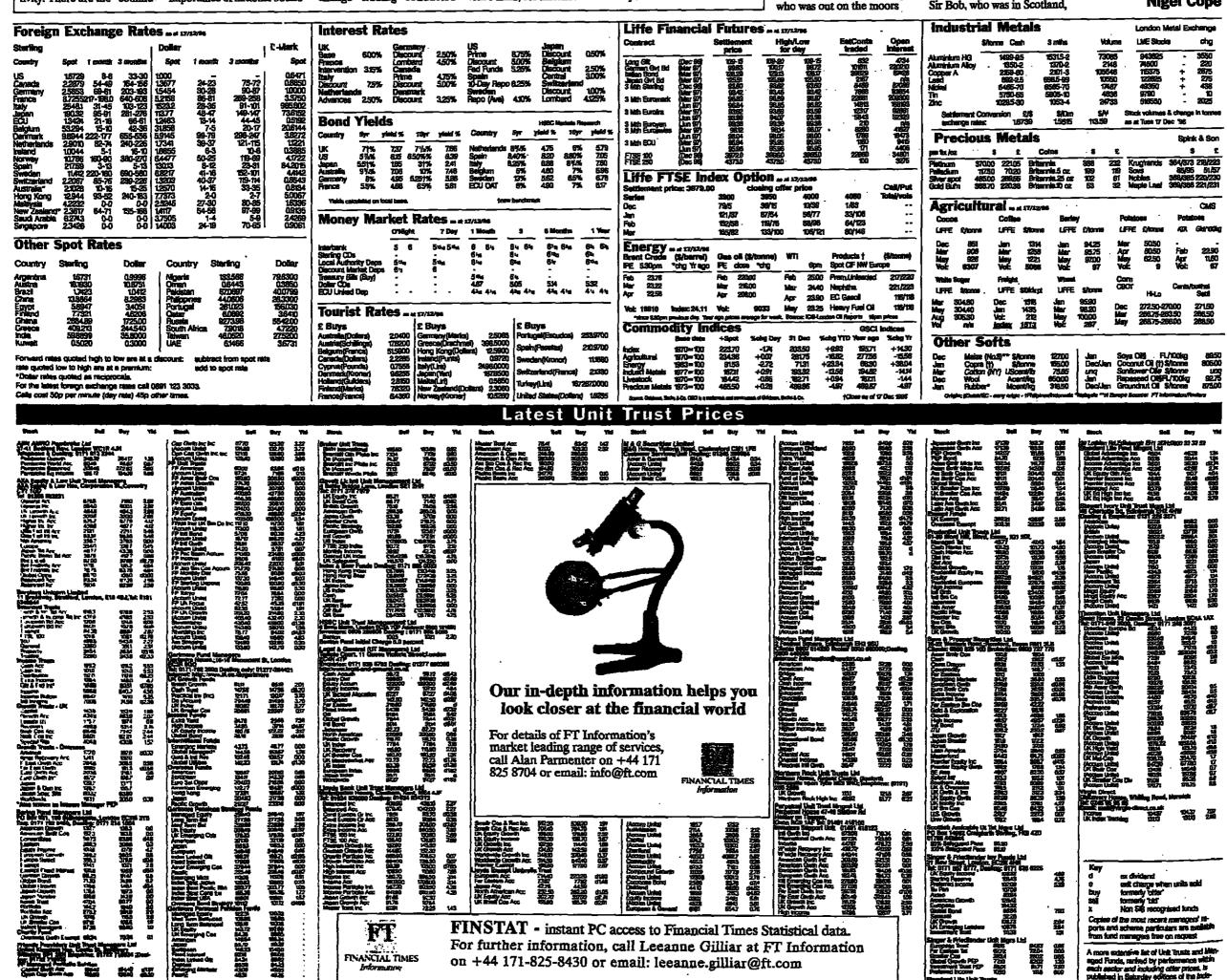
Instead he was reduced to pushing a pocketful of small change into an airport call box in order to continue his high level discussions.

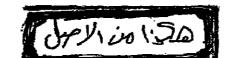
It seems Sir Bob was not in possession of a phonecard and the thought of using his credit card did not occur.

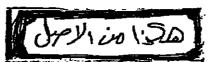
Mike Edelson, the chief executive of Conrad, which is merging with Sheffield United, will be standing down as a director of the more illustrious Manchester United. Though this is required under league regulation - it is not allowed to be a director of more than one club - he hopes to maintain an Old Trafford link. He is rather hoping Sheffield United draw the Reds in the opening game of the Premiership next season.

Given that the Blades are currently "resting" in the Nationwide Division One, some promotion or relegation will have to happen to enable this fixture. Is he so confident that the Sheffield club will win promotion? Or does he know it: something about Manchester United we don't?

Nigel Cope







Inchcailloch revels in his double life

Racing

GREG WOOD

one of the freshest horses in training. Just two months ago Jeff King's gelding was weaving his way through a big field of handicappers at the headquarters of Flat racing on his way to a brave victory in the Cesarewitch Handicap.

In the few weeks since, he has added three more successes to his CV, but not against soft op-position on the sand at Lingfield or Southwell, or even over a few flights of hurdles. Instead, Inchcailloch has been winning steeplechases, and in Saturday's Betterware Cup Handicap Chase at Ascot, for which he seems likely to start favourite, he has the chance to complete a remarkable across-the-codes big-race double. Inchcailloch's versatility is al-

ready remarkable enough, but his post favourite for the Triumph trainer believes that many othready remarkable enough, but his

12.40 Kashan

2.10 Beatson

1.10 Lively Knight 1.40 Quiet Mistress

TOWCESTER : 图像

ir J J O'Neili from Skelton Wood End, Cumbria

Alexander of the second of the

in landing ,

1

er horses might be suited to such a double life if only their own-If a change is truly as good as a rest, then incheailloch must be also very lucky to train him for the fact that his runner heads the ante-post mar-

> be just as versatile if the people connected with them would allow it, but there's not many while and I couldn't care less ple connected with them would around who'll do things for fun rather than for profit. If we kept a 20-1 chance, but I wouldn't be him to the Flat he might earn more money at the end of 12 should be there. He's a lovely months, but the owners like horse, really amenable, and he jumping. The fact that he was good enough to have a crack at the Cesarewitch was just a bit more on Saturday."

season due to a leg injury,

The three-year-old was ante-

writes Ian Davies.

2.40 Hoh Warrior

3.10 Even Blue ·

3.40 Billingsgate

GOING: Chase course - Good; Hurdle course - Good (Good to Soft in places).

Right-hand, unclusting circuit. Run-in of 140yds.

Coursels on A5 south east of town. Bus service from Northampton station, ADMISSION:
Members 512; Tamersalls 58; Course 54 (Car plus all occupants 515). CAR PARE: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNIRES: D Nicholson — 23 winners from 54 runners at a ratio of 41.6% giving a return to a 51 level stake of +579.68; O Breznan — 23 winners, 109 runners, 21.1%, -50.19; J R Upson — 11 winners, 65 runners, 16.3%, -514.83; N Twiston-Davies — 11 winners, 86 runners, 12.8%, -526.82.

LEADING JOCKETS: Martin Breuman — 22 winners, 100 rides, 22%, +54.81; A Magaire — 19 winners, 70 rides, 27.1%, +53.06; R Drawwoody — 15 winners, 66 rides, 22.7%, -52.49 D Gallagher — 10 winners, 52 rides, 19.2%, +519.00; W Marston — 10 winners, 66 rides, 15.2%, -525.03; N Williamson — 9 winners, 52 rides, 17.3%, -515.38.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Bill And Whin (visored, 12.40), Man Hood (2.10).

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATS: Beatson (2.10) won at Chekenham lest Friday.

LONG DESTAINCE RUNNERS: All The Acces (3.10) & Stideoffeld (1.10) sert 234 miles by J J O'Neil from Skekan Wood End, Cumbria.

12.40 TURKEY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,500 added 2m Penalty Value £2,094

FORM GUIDE

Ruth's Gamble trisined strongly in fourth behind Pharty Reef at Fakenham last Thursday after making a mistake at hathway. That was his best run in ages and just a little more improvement would give him a chance, but the way he had been running questions whether he will reproduce enything like at a second time. He had thished down the field behind Sportisine and KASHAN over an extra two and a half furiongs at Fontwell and that is probably a more reliable guide. The winner has since won here in better company and the way Kastian kept on in the closing stages he will be suried by this tough course. Peter Hayward did so well to revitables Coursegous Knight last season and looks to have done the same with Kastian. A fit from the Flat Ambideathrous put in his best run over burdles so far when runner-up to Sprintfayer in a non-seller here 12 days ago. He can probably do better stif. Dut a strict line through the winner leaves the ball Rimly in Kastian's court.

Selection: KASHAN

1.10 HOLLY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 added 2m 6f Penalty Value £4,060

S Fox

BETTING: 100-30 Whattabok, 5-1 Lively Knight, 11-2 Sidnothill, 7-1 Ratiopous, 10-1 Rate hale, Ramatish, 12-1 Bucket 01 Rold, See Enough, Strokesaver, 14-1 Gordon, 20-1 Redepark Rose, Parry Fox, by Boy, 33-1 others

1995: Major Summit 6 11 7 P Hide 5-4 (J T Gifford) 10 mn

1995: Major Summit 6 11 7 P Note 5-4 () 1 Genor() 10 min

FORM QUIDE

Linely Knight took a notable scalp in Meser Dram (wanner twice since) at Humingdon but was not able to take advantage of being left in front at Denter next time. Those performances put him ahead of stablemate Sugar Hill, who best SLIDEOFHELL at Humingdon nine days ago, yet it may be Jorjo O'Ned's seven-year-old that has the greater scope. Sideofinil managed only one run lest season, a fairly remote third to Parsons Boy at Westerby in February, after being unbestien in three runs in point-on-points in heland the year before. He stayed on without threatening at Humingdon and could quite easily improve over this stiffer course.

Whattabade was a decent sort over humies but it could be asking a bit for the once-smart hunder Hastoopous to merie a winning start over fences. Huge Miletaile, aithough he has the frame for it, may be up against it after 15 months off.

Selections SLIDEOFHILL

1.40 PLUM PUDDING CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,650 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £2,199

95771NC: 9-11 Roberty Les, 5-1 Quiet Mistrest, 13-2 Step-Pollaids, 10-1 Frank Reyler, 12-1 Suowy Lune, 14-1 Ferny Bod, Imperial Honora, 20-1 Quiet, 25-1 others 1995; Wite Ry 9 10 13 8 Fenton 9-1 (I E Long) 15 ran

0-0P061 SR PAGEANT (28) (The Daty Dozen) K Bridgester 7 11 10...... 5F00-PO CAPTAIN TANDY (IRE) (13) (CD) (D E Sims) C Smith 7 11 9....

2. 5FOU-PO CAPTAIN TANDY (IRE) (13) (CD) (D E Sims) C Smith 7 11 9
3. 0023-04 SAPRAROR (20) (F W Heading) Mass I, Sold 4 11 5
5. 3POL-OP BANKONET (ST) (D) P Monts 6, 6 Bers) W Clay 10 11 5
5. 3POL-OP BANKONET (RE) (13) (D) (D Dosies) D Dosies 8 11 4
6. P. 52 LANESRA BREEZE (13) (J) Wissi T Marghton 4 11 2
7. 1544/PO BILL AND WIN (ST) (D) (S H Potemp) T Marghton 4 11 2
8. 500P WINCRES ONE (255) (M R Claries) D Georging 5 11 0
9. S-240A ANTISULAN FLYER (SD) (D) (Booge Protomon) 6 Protomon 7 10 13
10. P66FP-2 AMERICALINET (SS) (R S Paigly John R (Done 4 10 11
11. 0-00 POLO PONY (RE) (25) (R S Paigly John R (Done 4 10 11)
12. 0FOP-2 KASHAM (RES) (SC) (R S Paigly John R (Done 4 10 11)
13. 300602 SUSHTLY SPECIAL (RES) (S) (R Noch) B Peorse 4 10 4
14. 60F-604 MUTHYS CAMBLE (T) (D) 9NS A Emprusi) Mrs I, Josel 8 10 2
15. 00P-2 COTTAGE JONES (12) (M A Betting) W Bettin 6 10 0
16. Hintonium Weight: 158. The famolicium Weight: Cottage Joker 9st 100s.
BETTING: 11-4-Kasham, 11-2-Ambidectrons, 13-2 Sir Pageard, 8-1 Shammon, 14

BETTHEC: 11-4 Kesten, 11-2 Ambideutrous, 13-2 Sir Pageant, 8-1 Stam Ruth's Gambic, Salymore, 15-2 Cottage Joher, Slightly Special, 20-1 An

tala Tandy, 25-1 Polo Pony, 39-1 others 1995: Hanthorie Gen 8 10 5 8 Fenton 13-2 (Min M T Long) 1 Part No.

it. "I'm lucky to have a very ath- owner to get involved in the beta smashing owner who doesn't wrap him up in cotton wool.

Trumet means the analysis are produced as mashing owner who doesn't ket is of little concern to King.

To be housest, I don't look at ci-"I think a lot of horses could ther the betting or the media

very much. whether he was the favourite or running him if I didn't think he Since 1 January will be only

With £35,000 in added prize— his eighth official birthday, In- the King George VI Chase at ble target. "Norman [William-money on Saturday, there is lit- cheailloch could indeed Kempton, draws closer. son] said that he immed very ers had the imagination to realise the reason for either trainer or progress still further through the chasing ranks. The highest levinto his latest assignment with

> (Towcester 12.40) NB: Roberty Lea (Towcester 1.40)

RICHARD EDMONDSON

NAP: Kashan

name, which is more than can could have some more im-provement in him. We'll find out season's Sun Alliance the major prize of Christmas,

Triumph favourite Bellator out for season with leg injury

Kempton, draws closer.

Tuesday by Rough Quest, the for the run," Mark Pitman, Grand National winner, Jenny's son and assistant, said Pitman's chaser dropped down afterwards. to hurdling company at Bangor yesterday in a desperate attempt to get a race under his girth before Boxing Day. Unlike Rough Quest, however, Nahthen Lad was nowhere to be seen at the serious end of the race and could finish only a distant sixth of seven runners in the Astbury

he won't."

William Hill's quote of 16-1 about Nahthen Lad for the Wren Handicap Hurdle.

Those brave - or reckless punters who had already taken a price for Kempton, however, and with doubts still hanging (Novices') Chase winner, as will be relieved to know that the over his participation, any King George remains a possi-

son] said that he jumped very Following the lead set on well and he will come on a lot

> "We will keep our options open about the King George. If he is bouncing in the morning and does well from then on, there is every chance that he will run at Kempton. If he doesn't,

Boxing Day meeting with One Man and company was unchanged after yesterday's race,



Christmas surely can be in only one direction. Rough Quest, however, found plenty of sup-porters yesterday, and was cut to 4-1 from 5-1 by Hills.

That Rough Quest is now at such cramped odds to beat One Man simply reinforces the fact that - with hindsight, of course - the 5-1 starting price for his hurdles victory at Folke-

SETTING: 7-4 Fon Terrior, 5-2 Pangerus, 3-1 Fm A Drosser, 5-1 Opera Fan, 14-1 Prof's Delight

1.50 HAPPY CHRISTMAS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £3,600 added 2m

– 6 declared – Minimum weignt, 10st. True handlep weign: Monaughty Man 9st 10in, BETTING: 6-4 Twin Falls, 9-4 Fall O'Preise, 5-1 Port in A Storm, 6-1 Pos-itive Action, 8-1 The Minister, 25-1 Monaughty Man

2.20 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m 1f 1.10yds

2.50 CATTERICK CLUB 1997 HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,100 added 3m 1f 110yds

3.20 GARRISON INTERMEDIATE NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (CLASS H) £1,550 added 2m

BETTING: 9-4 Ker

-8 declared -Kessiore-Speed, 7-2 Gale Ahead, 4-1 Dent Tell The Wife, strel, 8-1 Sparrow Hall, 10-1 Plans Ganner, 16-1 others

King: "Cesarewitch a bonus"

to him being disqualified just one round away from nearcertain victory on Saturday: "Why?" "I don't know, I really don't know," the 28-year-old Golota told Przeglad Sportowy in an in-

Golota is

ready

to seek

treatment

Andrew Golota, the Polish

heavyweight, has said that he

thinks he should undergo psy-

choanalysis after squandering

his chances of victory over Rid-

dick Bowe because of low

punches for the second time in

him the crucial question about

the ninth-round blows that led

A Polish sports daily asked

Boxing

five months.

terview published yesterday. "It was supposed to be a combination of punches to the stomach, after which Bowe would have had to straighten out and give me a chance for a

quoted as saying. Asked to comment on his cotrainer Lou Duva's suggestion of psychoanalysis. Golota said: "Why not? Maybe he's right. I don't know."

final knockout," Golota was

Golota was first disqualified for low blows during a July fight against Bowe in New York and said then that he had been desperate because he could not flatten the American, despite being ahead.

Golota said the two fights were different. "I just wanted to win the [New York] fight. In Atlantic City I wanted to kill Bowe," the Pole claimed.

Golota, who is nursing a burst eardrum from the fight, which he said had made him feel like he was boxing in a silent movie, said he was trying to forget the outcome of Saturday's

"What am I supposed to do? Shoot myself? Boxing is a sport for tough guys," he said.

He suggested he would welcome a chance to fight the former world heavyweight champion Tim Witherspoon. possibly in Poland.

"I want to fight the best and not waste time on those who are just climbing the rankings. olota said.

Smith and Harris are drafted in

Rugby League

Chris Smith have answered the call from the Great Britain Nines

coach, Andy Gregory.
Gregory named a 14-strong
party for the World Super

League Nines competition last

Friday, only for two key members of the squad to withdraw

operations in the near future in

a quest to be fit for the start of

Sculthorpe, one of a crop of outstanding young players in the game, has been troubled by a

wrist injury while Smith has a

groin problem.

Gregory, the Salford coach, said: "It's a blow to lose these two

only days after the squad was an-

nounced, but we have two qual-

ity replacements in lestyn and Chris. The squad remains strong with bags of experience and I am

The Super League World

First and Second Division

clubs will give their seasonticket holders "rover" passes to attend two First or Second Di-

vision games not involving their

own club free of charge. Each

club will have two blank week-

ends during the season which starts on 2 March, and League

spokesman Bob Scott said: "It

gives fans the opportunity to support the game on a wider basis."

Nines will be staged in Townsville, Australia, from 31 Janu-

confident we will do well."

ary to 2 February.

the domestic season.

yesterday through injury. The Warrington forward Paul Sculthorpe and the Castleford half-back Tony Smith both face

Warrington's Welsh international Iestyn Harris and Castleford's

Design. Penny A Day, 10-1 with Executive Design, successful at the sponsors, and Executive Ascot last month, has 10st 11lb. the bets of the year. It is mendable but he is out for Mrs Reveley has entered Express Gift, who was a leading 2.10 CHRISTMAS CRACKER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £6,500 added 2m 110yds Penalty Value £4,585 1.20 AMPLEFORTH HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,650 added 2m

Bellator is out for the rest of the March but his trainer Toby

..S Wyrste wednes B

......C Made R Mesocy (3) VN Williamson

__R Format

SETTING: 7-4 Sestion, 3-1 Jacob's Wile, 9-2 Dr Rocket, 5-1 Man Mood, 6-1 Joint Jones, 14-1 Cons

FORM GUIDE

FORM GINDE

Beatson would have been thereboxed in he had not fallen three out at Wincamon on his responsance and has since made amends at Phumpton and Cheltenhern. It makes good sense to keep a home in such good form on the go, but though this stiff course should be a big help to him, he is dropping back to two miles after winning twice over fee furings farther. McOB'S WIFE is likely to be more suited by the rip, Jacob's Wife had two easy wins in a light first campaign over fences last season and put up her only poor run when inding the distance too far and hanging in the Tattersells Meres' Final at Utionate (2m 5) on her final outing. She has not been out since that race in March but was besten two heads on her first outing last season, splitting no less than Chelenger du Luc and Trying Again in the race won by Seek The Farth at Chepstow. Dr Rocket looked as though he might be coming back to form when runner-up to The Lancer at Falsenham lest week but was probably faitured by the winner.

Selection: JACOB'S WIFE

240 SANTA CLAUS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m Penalty Value £2,898

ROPAL CUIDE.

Rist time out in the 1994-5 season RED BLAZER best 24 others by 15 lengths and mon

at the Cheseryan resolve. He is reported to the substring a security ment returning warn a sprained tendon in his only start in a bumper last season and can make up the lost time with a successful start to his hurdling career, Royal Rawen got off to a flying start over hur-dles by making all to beat Plumpton winner Regal Pursuit over two and a half miles at As-col. That was a good start and, as he escapes a pensity and has 35 taken off his back, should figure prominently here. Lagibile showed potential when staying on into second be-hind the experienced Altima Dencer at Newbury in March. Selections: RED BLAZER

3.10 LADBROKE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £10,000 added 3m 1f Penalty Value £7,263

3m 17 Perisatty Value £7,263

3FF55 AL THE ACES (12) U P Michany J O'Neil 9 12 0. P New 17111-1 Mere MANNER (20) (3) Yana Deches Of Westrinster) T Forster 9 12 0. A Thomson 47151-2 SPEN BLIE (BES) (20) (Nex C) Block) D McCain 8 11 6. R Demondy 466-545 SPUFFINITION (12) (Julian Coper) J Gifford 8 11 6. R Demondy 466-545 SPUFFINITION (12) (Julian Coper) J Gifford 8 11 2. P Hidd 322-131 BNS BEN DUM (No.) (Upland Stockscal) C Brooks 10 10 11 . D Bridgember 2114-52 PROCES HILL (127) (G D W Sarvin K Bolley 9 10 10 . C Grower SP111-0. SRAME BUCCHREER (360) (R C Wests) Ander Tumel 9 10 8. S Michael 17321/C CELTIC BARLE (865) (No. Nor Footbol C Bowel 10 10 0. R Mingland 17321/C CELTIC BARLE (865) (No. Nor Footbol C Bowel 10 10 0. R Bulliany 2 3312-20 SPECIAL ACCOUNT (23) (0) (Inches 14 Hol) C Bowel 10 10 0. R Bulliany 2 3312-25 SHEELIN LAD (818) (0) (No.7 1 Mingland - 12 declared - 12 declared

Special Accessed, 1.4-1 All The Acce, 15-1 Shin Guestugh, 20-1 State Buccanner, 25-1 Cettic Bar-can a second Accessed, 1.4-1 All The Acce, 15-1 Shin Guestugh, 20-1 State Buccanner, 25-1 Cettic Bar-

1995: Striy Bey 6 11 9 6 Bradley 9-4 (C P E Brotel 8 zm

PORTM GUIDE

PRICE'S HELL is ideal for this course - he possesses abundant stamina and it is worth taking a chance that he gast his jumping together. He is lightly speed over fenoes so there is morn for improvement, though there has to be some concern that he made mistakes at the two of the last three fences when beaten by the only other finisher, Badastan, on taking ground at Wincarison on his reappearance. The race will at least have brought frim on and today's easier glong is more sursable. River Mandater was unbeaten in three outings in 1994-95 and wound up by beating subsequent Hennessy winner Couldin Be Better at Untraster. He had had almost two years off before returning with a half-length defeat of Eves Blue over two and a half miles at Bengor lest month and, with that behind him, is taken to confirm that form.

3.40 IVY STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,550 added 2m Penalty Velue £1,417

R Marley

—15 dealared —

—15 dealared —

—15 dealared —

High State Party, 4-1 Betreste, 9-2 Princefel, 11-2 Billinghydde, 7-1 Mr Moonlight, 10-1 Rog Mole, 12-1 Baretholousur Pair, 34-1 Broakhampton Lane, 20-1 Jolly Heart, Willows Rolette, 25-1 Brokete, 33-1 Officers —

1985: Boss's Bank 5 11 4 A Wegaire 6-1 (D Micholson) 18 ran

cot bumper run in testing conditions and then ran Dato Star

1965: Tudor Fable 7 10 2 M A Fizzgaraki 7-2 (N J Henderson) 8 ran

Balding said last night: "Bellacould run two horses in The tor has suffered a stress fracture of the near-fore cannon bone. I Leopardstown on 11 January."

Inc. trainer loady Keveley and Sevent of the properties of the near-fore cannon bone. I Leopardstown on 11 January.

Inc. trainer loady Keveley and Sevent of the properties of the near-fore cannon bone. I Leopardstown on 11 January.

The trainer Mary Reveley fancy for last season's event be- Design, 16-1, are intended run-

HYPERION 12.20 Mister Ross (nb) 12.50 Feir Ally 1.20 Pangeran 1.50 TWIN FALLS (nap) 2.20 Pharere

GOING: Good to Soft. E. Left-hand course, undusting and sharp. Not suitable for the long-striding horse. Run-in 240yds.

■ Course is north west of town on A6136. Darlingson station 14 miles away - but service to course. ADMISSION: Club £11; Tattersalls £7; Course £2.50 (under 16s free but all enclosures). CAR PARK: Members £2, remainder Free.

SSI BISE

2.50 Gale Ahead 3.20 Nifaaf

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Make A Buck (12.50). WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATS: Dont Tell The Wife (2.50) won at Fakenham last Thursday. LONG DISTANCE EUNNERS: Dont Tell The Wife (2.50) sem

100KG DISTANCE RUNNESS: Dort Tell The Wire (2.50) sem. 286 miles by C Egenton from Chaddleworth, Berkskire, The Minster (2.50) & Pats Minstrel (2.50) sem. 201 miles by R Champion from Niewmarke, Suffolic Opera Fam (1.20), Moobaldur (2.20) et al. 134 miles by K Morgan from Waltherson-the-Wolds, Leicestershire; Absalom's Piller (2.30) sem. 131 miles by J Mackie from Church Broughton, Derbyshire; Monsteur Darcy (3.20), Fills De Cresson (12.20) & Brigadier John (12.50) sem. 116 miles by James Adam from Gordon, Borders.

12.20 PICTON NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICE HUR-DLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 3f

SETTING: 4-1 Mister Ross, 5-1 Lages Gridge, 6-1 King Pin, 8-1 Hutcel Loch, Major Herris, Eleman City, 10-1 others 12 En ST PAULS MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS F)

ᄖ	إنكا	<u>√</u> £3,600 added 2m 3f
1	PHS3-OPP	BOSMORTH FIELD (9) Mrs S H-Harter 8 11 5 M Foster B
2		BROGADIER JOHN (IRE) J Adem 7 11 5M Molenty
3	0-35PRP	CARDONAL SOMER (IRE) (12) J Wade 7 11 5
4	FP6-2	CUSH SUPREME (8) Month Techunter 7 11 5 R Johnson
5	545	FAIR ALLY (13) M Soversty 6 11 5
8		GRAND AS OWT (8) D McCune 6 11 5
7	00P-0	MAKE A BUCK (15) L Lungo 6 11 5
8	00P00-	PERGROYAL (296) Mrs S Smith 6 11 5
9	050-U2F	ROYAL HAND (6) R Amison 6 11 5
竝		SPRINGHELL QUAY (3) (BF) & Richards 7 11.5A. Dobbie
_	_	- 10 declared -

HUNT FLAT (CLASS H) £1,550 added 2m

88.MDSRY MRSHER P Beautyn, 5 11 4. _____ B Gratian (7)

2 3-0 DANTES AMOUR (RE) E2J/M Hammond 5 11 4.R Barst (7)

3 0-0 HARFDECSIT (83) Mrs M Review 5 11 4. _____ B Lee (3)

4 HUNTING SLANE C Grant 4 11 4. _____ B Hostry (3)

5 MONSEUR DARCY (RE) J Adem 5 11 4. _____ B Hostry (3)

6 PORT REYES (RE) C Tromon 4 11 4. _____ Mr C Bonner (3)

8 0 THE STUFFED PUFFIN (\$3) Llungs 4 11 4. _____ J Mrdine (7)

9 0 BROOK HOURS (38) B Brushest 5 10 13 ... C McCornack (7)

10 00F HEMBERG (978) 6 Oldoyd 8 10 13 _____ G Parkin (3)

11 0 MRSS FORTHAN (18) J Curs 4 10 13 _____ D Parker

20 0 MOVERS (13) W Smith 6 10 13 _____ S Topker (5)

13 24-2 METAR (USA) (16) K Morgan 4 10 13 _____ S Topker (5)

14 4 PUSFI ON POLLY (33) Prefes 6 10 13 _____ E Gallagham (3)

14 1 - 14 declared - BETTING: 3-1 Metads, 7-2 Point Reyes, 6-1 Brandsby Minstee, 7-1 Dantes Amour, 8-1 Harfdecont, Recca, 10-1 others

1.00 Primula Bakm 1.30 Genuine John 2.00 Chadwell Hail 2.30 Cats Bottom 3.00 Going For Broke 3.30 Broadgate Flyer 4.00 Golden Hadeer

GOING: Standard.

STALLS: 6f, Im 6f – outside; remainder – inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 6f to 1m 4f.

Fibresand, left-hand, oral course.

Course is north of town on A449. Wolverhampton station a mile away. ADMISSION: Clob 515; Thatespalls: 66 (OAP members of Diamond Club 54); Viewing Restaurant. 525, 90 including entrance

BLINEERED FIRST TIME: Boffy (1.00), Colonec (visured, 4.00), Dictation (4.30).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Mr Frosty (2.00) winners in The LAST SEVEN DATS: Mr Frosty (2.00) won at Wolverhampton iss. Sourcky.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Dictation (4.30), Fluisterre (1.30), Full Traceability (3.30) & Globe Emmer (4.00) sent. 181 miles by J J O'Mell from Sketton Wood End, Cumbris; Silver Harrow (1.30) & Cants Botton (1.30) sent. 186 miles by A G Newcombe from Huntshaw, Devon.

1.00 DUNSTON CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F)
(DIV I) £3,150 added 6f

2.00 DUNSTON CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) (DIV II) £3,150 added 6f

2.30 DUDLEY HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV I) £3,150 added 7f

= 12 declared = 8ETITME: 7-2 Encore MTLady, 4-1 Running Green, 5-1, Sen Darzig, 13-2 Cheeky Chuppy, 7-1 Hors's Yer Father, 9-1 Hollowsy Melody, 19-1 Monis, 12-1 Amy Leigh, Quintil Martin, Throe Arch Bridge, 14-1 Lie Fell, 25-1

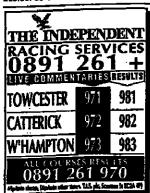
1995: Bost's Bank 5 11 4 A Magare 6-1 to recrueate to the proof of the function of the functio Ladbrokes, who sponsor the 3.10, offer the following early prices: 9-4 Even Blue, 5-2 River Mandate, 11-2 Price's Hill, 9-1 Springson, 11-1 Big Ben Dun, 12-1 Special Account, 14-1 All The Aces, 16-1 Brave Buccaneer, Ghia Gneuiagh, 20-1 Celtic Barle, 40-1 Mweenish, 50-1

1999: Will Fly 9 10 13 8 Fetton 9-1 U E Long 15 ran
Forms GUIDE
Roberty Lea had leg trouble after running at Antiree in March and his eight-length second
to subsequent winner Out Ranking in a Haydock claimer (2½m) 19 days ago was his first
outing since. Roberty Lea ran off a mark of 127 then and, even attiving for the fact that
he has to concede QUIET MISTRESS 20th, he still officially has the best part of 25 th hand.
This once-decent hundler retains a fair amount of ability and will be more at home with the
bit of cut and stiffer test of stamma. Binkers for the first time helped keep Quet Misuress
interested at Humingdon last time out and she put in her best run for a long time when
making most before giving way to Mister Flutts in a stayers' seller. She looked like making
the grade over fences at one stage and Adman Maguire could persuade her to put her best
look forward, athough a forecast would be a safer bet.

Selection: QUIET MISTRESS

YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS

RANGOR 12.30: 1. O'MAN IAP McCoy) 13-8 for: 2. Lime Street Bloos 11-4; 3. Fastini Gold 10-1. 14 ran. 4, 11. (M Pipe, Wellingson). Totas 52-80: 52-00. 51:30, 52:50, Dr. 23-90. CSF: 66-97. Tro: 52-4-40. NR: Al Helst, Ap-peat Again, Indean Temple, Nemgarw, 1.00: 1. AROUND THE GALE IR Durwoody. LOUI L. ARCOUND THE GALE IK DURWOOD! 4-7 fbs; 2. Reytine Star 14-1; 2. Garmein 16-1. 8 ran. 8, 2. [0 Gendolio, Wantage). Tote: £1.50; £1.10, £3.80, £2.70. DF: £10.90, CSF; £9.92.



1.30; 1. FREDDIE MUCK (C Lewellyn) 3-1 fav; 2. Yes Man 8-1; 3. San Surfer 5-1. 7 ran, 34; 4. (N Twiston Davies, Chellenhern). Tota: £3.20; £1.50, £4.80, DF: £18.70. CSF; \$22.92 2.00: 1. PENNINE PRIDE (N Williamson) 2.00; 1. PERMINE PRIME IN THE ISSUED STATE OF THE WARRE 6-1. 10 ram. 11-4 for Holy Sting (5th).
7. 18. (M. Harrmond, Muddensmi). Totas: 57.20; £2.20, £2.70, £1.80. DF. £33.80. (SF. £51.48, Tidast: £287.64, Trio: £77.60. 2.30; 1. MITANT (G-Hogan) 2-1 fav. 2.

2.30: 1. KINTAVI (G-Hogan) 2-1 fav; 2. Glowing Path 5-2.3 Country Minsterd 12-1. 10 ran. 7-5. (T Donnesty, Swedincote). Tobe: 53.00: £1.30, £1.60, £2.50. DF: £4.40. CSP: £7.22. Tracest: £4.198. Trio: £34.10. 3.00: 1. DISTINCTIVE (C Lewellyn) 5-1: 2. Fools Errand 7-2: 3. Really A Roscall 11-4 fav. 8 ran. 4. 2½. (M Wilderson, Berduny). Tota: £5.50; £1.60, £1.80, £1.10. DF: £3.80. CSF: £21.19. Tracest: £51.38. Trio: £3.60. CSF: £1.19. Tracest: £51.38. Trio: £3.60. CSF: £1.29. Trio: £1.30. The Moon 9-2. 14 ran. 7. 8. () Multirel, Andows. Total: £2.00. E1.00. CSF: £12.08. Trio: £15.30. Jackpot: £7.222.30: £51.30. 44 carned forward to Towarester today.

wart to Toucester today.

Placepot: £25,10. Quadpet: £11,40.

Place 6: £21,15. Place 5: £15,44. CATTERICK 25.50; 1. MONYMAN (R Garrol) 11-8 ter; 2. Twin Public 3-1; 2. Fennick's Brother 14-1 6 can, 5, 4, (M Hammond). Tota: £2.70; £0.50, £1.10, DF: £3.40, CSF: £5.70.

1.20: 1. FRYUP SATELLITE (Mss P Rob-sor) 6-1: 2. Duke Of Perth 9-2; 3. Fawley Piyer 5-1. 11 ran. 9-4 tay Sudden Spin. Hd, hd. Jikovin. Tota: £5.30; £1.20, £3.60, £1.50. DF: £14.90. CSF: £32.14. Tricast. £135.72. Tric: £48.20. NR: Tristan's Cornet. 1.50: 1. EEBIS 1.00 (Richard (Jack) 9-2; 2. Trice Gold 3-1: 2. Shawwell 3-1. 6 ran. 7-4 fay Dorin Castle, Hd. 22. (Mrs S Smith). Totae £46; £1.80. £2.20. DF: £5.80. CSF: £17.40. 2.20: 1. TREMEZI (J. Supple) 7-1; 2. Parti-cito 1-2 fay: 3. Heavens Above 25-1. 10

2.20: 1. TRAMEZI (J Supple) 7-1; 2. Perietto 1-2 fev; 3. Heavens Abovie 25-1. 10 ran. 5, 5. (Mr A Swinberk). Tota: £15.70: £3.70. £1.30. £3.80. DF: £6.90. CSF: £11.77. Trio: £99.30. DF: £6.90. CSF: £11.77. Trio: £99.30. DE: £6.90. CSF: £11.77. Trio: £99.30. DE: £1.79. Trio: £99.30. DE: £1.79. Trio: £19.40; £4.50, £9.00. DF: £54.40. CSF: £386.88. 3.20: 1. LASTIRY (A S Smith) 4-1; 2. Environmental Law 11-2; 3. Highly Charming 20-1. 14 ran. 3-1 tav My Shenerdoch. Ho. 6. (B Rochwell). Tota: £4.50; £4.10. £2.80. £3.90. DF: £37.30. CSF: £29.84. Tricest: £4.01.23. Trio: £278.70. Pricespot £6.40. F3.90. Pricespot £6.40. F3.90. Pricespot £6.40. Pricespot £6.40. £3.90. Pricespot £6.40. P

EXETER

2. Staining Light 2-1 far; 3. Ontis Regrets 7-2. 7 san. 1½, 9. (R Baley, Upper Lambours). Total: £7.10; £2.60, £1.10. DF: £9.70. CSF: £18.38. E18.38.
3.10: 1. River BAY (B Penton) 9-4; 2. Rd-diing The Pacts 5-1; 3. Moonlighter 100-1.
17 rins. 2-1 fav Gaye Farne (4th). Ni., 20. (Mas H Knight, Wantzel). Toker 53.10; £1.20. 62.10, £10.20. 07: £12.00. 659; £13.85. That Not vor; £423.69 camed forward to Tow-caster 1.30 today. NR: \$Jak's Dream. Placepot: 194.30. Quadhot: £25.80. Place 8: £83.66. Place 5: £62.44.

£22.27.

12.40: 1.TOP SAPPER (Mr / Tozard) 12.1; 2. Peter Monardy 1.2 fax: 3. Fortune Rese 20-1. 9 vas. 5. 6. // Greenusy, Taurion). Total: £13.90; £2.90, £1.00, £3.70. DP: £5.20. CSF: £17.98. The: £21.50.

2.40: 1 FULL OF FIRE (C O'Dwyer) 6-1:

1.10: 1. GROOWING (P Hide) 7-2; 2. Court Master 11-1: 3. Dente's View 50-1: 12 nm. 6-4 few Remarkely (pulled up). Hd., 11. U Getord. Findon. Total: (5.00; £1.40, £2.40, £2.40, £2.40, £2.40, £2.40, £2.40, £3.90; £2.70.15 carried forward to Towcester 1.10 todey. NR: Colettés C hoice. 1.40: 1. COOL GUNNER (C Masdé) 8-1: 2. Supreme Benotin 6-4 fex; 3. Winnow 6-1. 8 ran. 6, 37. U Hing, Swindon. Total: £7.50. CSF: £21.28. Tilgest: £7.60. Trice £7.50. CSF: £21.28. Tilgest: £7.60. Trice £7.20.30. NR: Achill Prince, Febulous Mison, Sounds Like Fun. 2.10: 1. EDGEMOOR PRINCE (A Megure) 4-1; 2. Spring Salet 5-1: 3. Bell One 100-30 fev. 7 ran. 8, 15. (P Hobbs, Minehead). Toka: £3.30: £1.80, £4.20. DF. £18.70. CSF: £22.27.

1.30 BRIDGETOWN HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,500 added 3YO 1m 100yds

BETTING: 3-1 Chardwall Heat, 4-1 Bold Aristocrat, 5-2 Paleocyptes Jack, 11-2 Abarners, 7-1 Mr Frenty, 10-1 Livie Burr, 12-1 Miss Charles, 14-1 Whattat, Present N Correct, Sir Tesker, 16-1 The Happy Fox, 20-1 other

BETTING: 4-1 Dombie-O, 9-2 Going For Broke, 5-1 David Rock, 6-1 El-tervescence, 7-1 Milroy, 8-1 C-Harry, 9-1 Namore Mr Nicegy, 14-1 Nach Symphony, 16-1 Ever Arrangement, 20-2 Amico

Ditty Dox, Royal Cascade, 20-1 others 4.00 HIMLEY AMATEUR RIDERS' HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,650 added 1m 4f

4.30 DUDLEY HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV II)

TODAY'S FIXTURES Football 7.30 unless stated

HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRE LAND Pressier Division: Home Farm Ever ton v Shartrock Rovers (7,45). PONTIES LEAGUE CUP Group Three Stoc-port v Stoke (7.0) (at Stoke City FC). Group Four: Scunthorpe v Grimsby (7.0). AVON INSLANCE CONSINATION First Division: Arsens! v Wimbledon (2.0); Southsmoton v West, Ham (at Marchwood). FA YOUTH CUP Second round replay: Luton Town v Oxford Utd. Cricket

FIRST TEST (Second day of five): Zmbab-we v England (Bam) (at Queen's Club, Bul-Other sports

EQUESTRIANESIE: Olympia Championships (Kensington, London). POOL: Morcoto Cup Nine-Bell Challengs: Eu-rope v USA (Degenhem). SWMMAINE: ASA National Winter Champion-ships (Sheffield).

Unfortunately for Henman, who appears a well adjusted young man, there is very little chance he will be allowed to make steady progress

A problem for up and comers in British sport is the amount of ex-was that it brought reality back to pectation that grows up quickly around them. No sooner is someone off and running than there reporting the match for the Indeis foolish talk about world beating

It is a good time to latch on to this because, in accordance with a appears to be a well-adjusted reliable chore of sports journalism, one I am not comfortable with. newspapers will soon be publishing the names of those who may come further to our attention in the not too distant future.

The safest of bets, our old friend the certainty, is that the rising star of British tennis, Tim Henman, will be among them. A sensible reaction to Henman's straight-sets defeat by

was that it brought reality back to his prospects. My colleague, Simon O'Hagan, made a point of this when pendent on Sunday and I wish others had followed his example.

Unfortunately for Henman, who young man, there is very little chance that he will be allowed to make steady progress. The intense focus of media attention simply does not allow for it. With every step he takes, the burden of expectation increases.

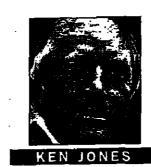
In holding Becker to a tie-break in the first set, Henman gave a thoroughly creditable performance but doubtless his defeat gave rise to dis-

appointment in the news rooms of television, radio and newspapers. Because it is almost 60 years

ince Fred Perry became the last British player to win the Men's Singles at Wimbledon, and the story since has been one of disappointment, you may not find this suprising - but it serves to indicate how much pressure Henman, at 22, is sure to come under.

At this stage of Henman's de-

velopment it is advisable, I think, to take note of what Becker, who won Wimbledon when four years younger, felt after coming up against him for the first time. "He's a player with a good future but who knows how far he is going to get?" the German said.



In the world of modern sport, potential can be as suspect as faith in a lottery ticket or a horse that is known to be a dodgy jumper. The truth, as Calvin Coolidge argued, is that nothing is more common than unsuccessful people with talthat nothing matters more than

Incidentally, I once passed on Coolidge's remarks to a thoughtful football manager who had grown seriously frustrated with the attitude of his charges. He had the words typed out and put up in the dressing room. "Coolidge," one of the players said. "Who the hell did he manage?"

To get back on track, hyperbole has held back many sporting careers. Mindless comparison, an eagerly employed tool of newspapers and television, brings its own problems. For example, it is not that long since Dominic Cork was hailed as the new Ian Botham. This

ent; another thing Coolidge said is was as unfair on him as it was to hail Darren Gough as Fred True-

man's natural successor. You can go on and on like this. Not so long ago, a problem for the Manchester United manager, Alex Ferguson, was that people saw another George Best in Ryan Giggs, and reacted accordingly. The young Welshman appears to have handled this quite well, which says a lot about his upbringing at Old Trafford, and Ferguson's protective instincts. Now, foolishly to my mind, David Beckham is being written and spoken about as England's next great player before

he has matured fully in the Premiership. Following Manchester United's

victory in Vienna recently, Beckham was the centre of attraction. By all accounts this is not causing Ferguson as much concern as he first imagined, but we can be sure that

he would prefer more discretion. None of this is peculiar to British sport but it does seem that nowhere else in the the world is so much made of embryonic talent.

A good thing to remember is that people in sport see things from a different perspective. Many years ago it was put to Bill Shankly that the play of a young footballer on Liverpool's books was reminiscent of Tom Finney. With a vision of Finney in his mind, Shankly chuckled. "Aye," he said, "but Tommy is 52."

sports

letters

Sir. The British Public are a strange lot. We certainly do not recognise * legend when we see one. In our midst we have an athlete whose codesvours

and achievements will never be

any of his contemporaries in this country in any sport you much to mention. Someon years of unparalleled success, consecutive gold medals, an iconwithin his own sport and a legend in his own lifetime. Not

for him the spoils of lucrative

cts or even the advantage o

family ties. But in their stead ment to hard work, a burning

desire to be and remain the

best and a lifestyle of which

many would be surprised, given his stature as an athlete.

One would obviously con-

cede that Formula One mo-

tor racing is far more dangerous than rowing, but is

sence of good fortune? Other rowers boars do not crash,

break down or run off the track. There is no mechanical

idvantage of the "best boat".

ality Of The Year] whose one off achievements pale into

insignificance when placed against an athlete whose vic-

Dries over sixteen years are as

imbelievable as this result.

There is only one solution.

his fifth consecutive gold

medal at the Sydney Olympics.

Walker is commentating.
Yet this colossal achiev

ment will still fail in the eyes

of the British public. The reason? Tim Henman would have reached the quarter fi-nal at Whobledon!

There can be no justification for a decision that went to a man [Damon Hill, who won the BBC Sports Person-

it not also true that in rowing there is an almost total ab-

Redgrave's

greatness overlooked

Fans converted by rugby's new voice



friend Alex once treated his wife to a weekend in spraunchy hotel near Bristol. only to find the place overrun by the Welsh rugby union team, intent on drinking the bar dry. As the evening wore on, certain players were all set to continue a battle that had taken place earlier on the pitch.

One 17-stone monster barged into Alex, who was no mug when it came to a scrap. "Are you looking for a fight?" the Famous Player glared. "The size of you? You must

oe joking," said Alex. That always struck me as an eminently sensible way to defuse a potentially damaging situation, both for Alex and the hotel furniture. Insulting someone whose middle name is Mayhem might seem heroic at the time, but the benefits are generally outweighed by the surgery costs. No such worries appear to be-

set the editors of the groundbreaking Gloucester fanzine, Shedhead, which insults with impunity everyone from Gareth Chilcott (Fat Git) to Phil de Glanville (Elephant Man). Nothing odd there, you might say. Football fanzines have been doing that for years. But rugby has never seen anything like it.

head was the first rugby fanzine, but it is undeniably the best and the most successful. Started in autumn last year, it easily outsells Gloucester RFC's official programme. People queue outside the unlovely ground to huy the photocopied pages. Its fame has spread so far that supporters from other clubs as far away as West Hartlepool now ask the editors for advice.

It is everything a good fanzine should be: irreverent, outspoken, rude, crude, misspelt, badly nunctuated - and with its heart firmly rooted in the terraces. The surprise is that the brains behind it are not spotty teenagers but two men with successful business careers.

Ed Snow, a Gloucester fan all about 6,000) and queues form his life, had dreamed of running a fanzine but did not have the production expertise. The catalyst was Bob Fenton, who had recently moved to the city and whose strait-laced job as senior press officer for Nuclear Electric clearly belied his anarchic

The pair were eminently qualified as terrace critics. Neither had played much rugby beyond the sixth form and, though Fenton looks like a useful frontrow, he admits: "I played on the wing. I thought it was a bad day if I had to wash my shirt afterwards." But they knew what the Gloucester faithful wanted and what they didn't want.

There are a lot of professional rugby writers who get away with murder," Snow says. "They turn out sycophantic tripe to get sweet with players. What the public is getting is not what is happening in rugby. We aimed to address that by being funny, up-to-date and writing things as they really were."
Fenton adds: "We had a

rough idea what we were going to do. There was a lot of anti-Will Carling and anti-Bath stuff, though I have to admit that the majority of the first issue was self-opinionated waffle." In keeping with far

ethos, they did not tell the club what they were doing. And because they were not quite sure what the feedback would be, the first issue of 150 copies was anonymous. But they need not have worried. When Snow added his address in the second issue, the pair were delighted to find supporters writing in and encouraging them to continue.

The first five issues were free, but success was costing them a packet. They took the decision to sell it for 50p. "We produced 600 and sold out," Fenton recalls. "It meant we could start to pay back some of the debts we had incurred." Now they print 1,800 (against an average Gloucester following of

to buy a copy. 'Gloucester is quite an insular community and it's quite working class. They still look upon some players as outsiders. There is no rugby team like it, and no place with the same intensity. It's real in-your-face support, which is very intimidating." Fenton says. Shedhead (named after the stand where proper supporters stand) re-

"People would rather buy this because we are more in touch with what they want to read," Fenton says. "The offi-cial club programme spoke to us about binding all or some of the magazine inside the official programme. What a cheek! We said no." Snow adds: "We have gone from being a minor annoyance to a thorn in their side."

So the pair continue to slam most rugby writing ("Light years behind football, they take themselves too seriously," says Snow); their fierce rivals Bath ("More money than sense") their own club, ticket prices, the ill-planned fixture list and racism. The decision to shun takeover moves means Snow can continue his unique programme seller's approach. "I shout Sneer, Smut and Innuendo," he

Of course, when you call officials useless tossers or players a bunch of mercenaries, chances are that the odd person will get upset. "People are amazed we are not bombarded with writs." Fenton says. "So far we have only had one solicitor's letter. It was a hard decision not to run the letter and write Bollocks' after it."

Their closest run-in with Messrs Sue, Grabbitt and Runne came when Simon Devereux was banged up for nine months for breaking a player's jaw. Fenton still gets enraged about it. "The charge of GBH with intent meant he went on to the pitch intending to break someone's jaw. It was ridiculous.
"We even got a textbook out



Ed Snow (left) and Bob Fenton, the editors of Shedhead, outside Gloucester RFC's ground

of the library to read up the law on intent, and wrote a one-page special. It was the closest we have come to being in contempt of the law. We ran it through a lawyer, who said: 'How long do you want to go to prison for?'
We made a few changes."

That Saturday, they organised a collection outside the ground and raised about £500 to pass on to Devereux's heavily pregnant girlfriend. "I think it was our finest hour," says Fenton. "It got us notoriety in the area because we were prepared to say publicly

ing privately." He adds: "I think we are making a difference in the way that Gloucester RFC is reported. At the end of the day, Shedhead is not an incitement to riot. We just try to add a bit of fun to Saturday afternoons."

Photograph: Peter Jay

And what of their insults to some big, aggressive men who hite the heads off puppies for fun? "The players like the idea of having terrace-level feedback," Fenton says. "They seem happy to be ritually humiliated

D ROSS Withington, Manchester

> wise move Prom Tim Craig Sir. How wise England were not to play the Australian [rugby union] touring side, especially on last Saturday's appaling performance agains

England's

At least we were spared the humiliating spectacle of a se-rious thrashing.

Hindford, Oswestry

Cricket

embarrassment From Michael Drake Sir. Why don't England withdraw from international cricket for a while ("Deical leaves England risking fur-ther ridicule" - 16 December)? After all, it didn't seem to do South African sport any harm. And hasn't the politi-cal equivalent of "Il take my

bat home" become a national characteristic anyway (*171 use the Euro Veto says Blan." 16 December)? M DRAKE

Milion Keynes

Letters should be marked For publication, and spould contain daytime and evening phone mumbers. They should e sent to Sports Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London, E14 5DL They may be shortened for reasons of space.

Sport and art

Graham-Dixon in Tuesday's paper was SPORTS: A Cultural History in the Mirror of Art (published by Verlag der Kunst, an imprint of G+B Arts International, price £78).

CRICKET: Explore the dark side of Wally Hammond and the light side of 'Dickie' Bird with David Liewellyn

Wisdom of cricketers and the Wisden of facts

There is nothing like a good mystery story to fill the long hours between meals over the festive period. Before giving in to pre- and post-prancial sleep. scratch the itch of curiosity and dip into one of the most abwrhing cricketing hiographies to hit the shelves since David

From's last work. Wally Hammond, Gloucestershire and England, professimal and amateur, bataman and howler, had the lot, including an obscene amount of natural sporting talent carning him a string of records in the game. His physical fitness and good looks attracted women to him and prompted plenty of speculation about his sexual athicticism

Yet, as David Foot reveals in his sensitively written biogra-phy Wally Hammond, The Reasons Why (Robson Books, £17.95), the figures and the feats of this cricketing legend on the field shed no light on the darker side of someone regarded by many of his contemporaries as a tacitum. uncommunicative figure, with session with privacy and, the

crimes, a snob to boot. Personal relationships did not work out, nor did business ventures and Hammond died in comparative poverty in South Africa in 1965 - leaving behind him enough rumour, innuendo and whisperings to titillate the cu-

Foot examines the bizarre circumstances surrounding the young Hammond's illness which forced him to miss the 1926 season. Was it malaria or syphilis that he contracted in the Caribbean? Was he descended from a more exotic bloodline than his Anglo-Saxon parentage suggested? Were these the determining factors in the formation of one of the enigmas of English cricket?

Foot adores the probing and analysis, attempting to unravel the gordian knot of the psyche, trying to understand the motivation of a sportsman, looking for answer that he knows are probably going to clude him, but what a rivetting read all the

has been carefully pieced to- service and followed the well-

gether by Foot, himself a Somerset man so he had no real axe to grind, and the cricket has been placed gently on the back burner, simmering quietly, just a spoonful being applied by the author here and there, and only where relevant.

Foot has gone to great lengths in his research to back up his hypotheses on his subject, going so far as to quote from a medical paper on the subject of mercury as a treatment for syphilis, published in 1990, and its long-term side effects. A challenging and absorbing book, well worth the

As a contrast with the Hammond biography, the colourful Allan Lamb is anything but coy in his life story. Allan Lamb, My Autobiography (Collins Willow, £15.99) is so highly coloured that in fact it led to the South African-born English Test baisman being forced out of the game.

By agreeing to publish the book while still a player, Lamb was in breach of Test and Coun-And there is not too much by Cricket Board regulations cricket. Hammond's private life and so he retired from active



worn route of retired sports personalities into a new career in the electronic media.

Lamb goes into detail about the ball tampering affair during the 1992 series against Pakistan and the court case against Im-ran Khan; he also writes of the infamous Kerry Packer in the casino affair during the 1990-91 tour of Australia - and he makes it clear that he does not tolerate curfews, having adopted the work hard, play hard phi-

He does do what Foot admirably avoids, relating the various keynote matches, inuings, catches etc. But for sheer honesty and guts - he did after all know that it would finish his career by going ahead

and publishing — this particu-lar account takes a lot of bear-

It would be impossible to store every life story published. so the next best way has to be by acquiring one of the most comprehensive and authoritative biographical dictionaries on world cricket ever published. Christopher Martin-Jenkins' World Cricketers (Oxford University Press, £25.00) is a staggering tome, spanning cricket's Test playing A-Z - Australia to

The intention, claims the author, was "to produce readable, short biographies of every notable player or influential personality from the earliest days

Martin-Jenkins, together with a knowledgeable team of writers, has certainly achieved that admirably. While appearing pricey, this represents real value for money and a worthy addition to any cricketing li-

While an autobiography is due out in the New Year, fans of the game's favourite umpire. Dickie Bird, can settle down with Brian Scovell's Dickie - A

Tribute to Umpire Harold Bird (Partridge Press, £12.99), a comprehensive collection of anecdotes and tributes culled from everyone who is anyone in the game and out of it: celebrities, politicians, peers. It amus-

es and whets the appetite for something more substantial about this most eccentric of Dickie is featured in Bob Willis's oddball, Cricket - Six of the Best (Hodder & Stoughton, £14.99). A series of categories in the game, with some thoughtprovoking opinions from the former England captain and fast

a read though.

A journalist lives by the creed: Today's newspaper is tomorrow's chip wrapper. Given that, attempts at collecting the best writing is almost sac-

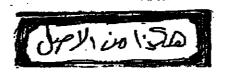
Perhaps it might introduce people to different newspapers, but the subjectivity of such a volume is generally enough to make the adjective "best" redundant. For all that, David Rayvern Allen's in The Covers -The Best Cricket Writing of the Year (Headline, £15.99) is an ex-

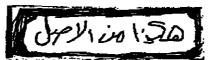
cellent distillation all of the happenings in 1996. While the expected doyens of the cricket press box are in-

cluded, there are also pieces by some up-and-comers, including the Independent's Adam Szre-It would be foolish to discount the hardy annuals which appear every year. The superbly produced Benson &

Hedges Cricket Year (15th edition, edited by David Lemmon, Bloomsbury, £20.00) has the lot, from all over the world and in a very short time. You want to know what happened last season? Relive the memobowler. Unusual, but well worth ries of the NatWest Trophy final? Or find out where your man finished in the averages? This has the answers. If B&H's masterwork is the New Testament, Wisden re-

mains the Bible of the game. It is still some four months until next year's primrose yellow jacketed Almanac appears, but the 133rd Edition is still available at £24.50, as is Playfair's invaluable vade mecum, the 1996 Cricket Annual, edited by the incomparable Bill Frindall – a bargain at £4.99.





City target Bruce to team up with Kidd

Football

ALAN NIXON

Manchester City, who earlier this week revealed their desire mas is looking for the club to reto take Brian Kidd from their ward his loyalty with a new neighbours United as their new manager, now want United's resurfaced that the Northern former captain, Steve Bruce, as Kidd's No 2.

Kidd, Alex Ferguson's assistant at Manchester United has emerged as the first choice of City's new power group, headed by Stephen Boler, and Bruce, now player-coach at Birming-ham City, is seen as the ideal foil, the pair having formed a close friendship at Old Trafford.

gling Manchester City on the field as well as off.

contract as speculation has Ireland midfielder is attracting interest from Wimbledon.

Anders Limpar is ready to join Francis at Birmingham. The Swedish midfielder is out of favour at Everton and Francis is keen to take Limpar on loan and then do a permanent deal at around £700,000.

Limpar's Everton colleague Paul Rideout has turned down Bruce could be tempted by a a loan move to First Division first break in management and Oldham despite being offered Birmingham would let him go for around £500,000. Bruce is not guaranteed a place in Portsmouth and he may prefer

Trevor Francis's team, but he a move to the south, where he ticle in which their former Spurs repute, even though the Footwould definitely bolster strug- has spent most of his career. Embarrassed Liverpool offi-

defender Neil Ruddock attacked Sugar's running of the cials have formally apologised chib. The move is likely to save to Alan Sugar, the Tottenham Ruddock from facing a charge

ball Association yesterday revealed it was considering what to do about Sugar's official

League wary of threat from below

The Football League could be der the new proposals, could left in a state of uner confusion wreck the plans and leave the today if a "rebellion" of smaller clubs blocks restructuring plans. Chairmen of the 72 Nationwide League dubs will meet in a London hotel for an Extraordinary General Meeting where it had been expected they

would ratify the new set-up.
But concern by some Second
and Third Division clubs over the power to be wielded by the larger First Division outfits un-

wreck the plans and leave the League in limbo. The proposals, tabled by Inswich, Wolves, Old-ham and Crystal Palace, will see the present six-man Board of Directors dismantled and replaced by an independently-chaired

nine-man body, elected on both a regional and divisional basis. The League president, Gor-don McKeag, will immediately stand down as chairman. The new-look Board will commission

an independent report considering, among various issues. the structure of the League and Board, the role of the chairman, and the possibility of appointing a Chief Executive.

The proposal needs 75 per cent approval, meaning that 19 clubs voting against would constitute a blocking minority. At least 13 clubs are understood to be prepared to vote down the proposals and one chairman predicted: "It will be a close call,"

Cotton, said: "Liverpool had no prior knowledge of any news-paper article and the club has apologised to Mr Sugar. We take the view that articles like this do. not help in the general context of football because we always try

to behave with dignity." Brian Clough could finally receive some formal recognition for his achievements at Nottingham Forest next month by being named life president of the Premiership club.

Clough will receive that offer if the consortium headed by Lawrie Lewis wins the power battle at the City Ground. The group also plan to name new stands in a revamped stadium after Clough and his late former assistant Peter Taylor. Also, a testimonial game will be staged to formally mark Clough's

move for the Senegalese international Mamado Diallo. The 23-year-old striker plays for the Turkish First Division side Zeytinburno and would command a fee of around £1m.

Falkirk could have three points deducted today by the Scottish League Management Committee, which will decide on the First Division club's punishment for including an ineligible player, John Clark, in their 1-0 win over St Mirren.

The Football Trust is to put a complete moratorium on new grants for ground improve-ments. The Trust has had to turn to the FA Premier League and National Sports Council for help in funding work demanded by the Taylor Report due to the dramatic effect on its income caused by the National Lottery.

Smith's chance to stake his claim

sport

Rugby Union

Ian Smith, the Scottish flanker, has forced his way hack into Gloucester's team for Saturday's Pilkington Cup fifth-round match with Leeds following months of being out of favour with the coach, Richard Hill.

Smith was dropped earlier in the season but has now been restored to the side in place of Nathan Carter, who has virtually made the open-side position his own this season. However, Hill has made it clear he has selected Smith to give him a chance of staking a claim for a place in

the side for the league matches. "Nathan Carter has done nothing wrong," said Hill. "He has set a very high standard. When I had a chat to Ian last month I said I would give him opportunities to come in with the full first team and produce a performance which would belp him come back into contention for selection for league games. Ian played well against Newbridge in the Anglo Welsh a couple of weeks ago and this is another chance for him to challenge Nathan."

There are three other changes in Gloucester's team from the side which last turned out for a league match. The prop Andy Deacon returns from injury to replace Phil Vickery, Don Caskie is preferred to Alastair Saverimutto in the centre, while Mike Lloyd replaces injured Audley Lums-

den on the left wing. Saracens underlined their determination to avoid a major Cup shock by deciding to name six of their internationals for the fifth-round match at Reading. Their line-up will include Michael Lynagh and Philippe Sella, guaranteeing a full-house for the mid-table Division Three side.

Dawson out as Bayfield comes back

Scrum-half Matthew Dawson dropped by England after last season's Five Nations Championship triumph, could be out of action for two months.

The Northampton player has undergone keyhole surgery on the torn knee ligaments he suf-fered playing for England A against Argentina and will spend two weeks in plaster and then a further fortnight in a leg brace.

But there is better news for Saints' former England and British Lions lock Martin Bayfield, out of the game since last April, who has resumed full training after a pelvic injury. Scotland lock Stewart Camp-

bell has become the latest top player to sign a full-time contract with the Scottish Rugby Union. The move brings the number of "professional" players on the Union's books to 45.

Campbell, capped 13 times, signed for Melrose last May and it is believed it was the agreement with the Border club which made it difficult for the 24-year-old to go full-time with the SRU. Selected top flight matches

in Wales look likely to go ahead this weekend despite referees' strike action over pay, but there could still be a greatly reduced programme with the dispute still far from resolved.

James relishes crunch match at Newcastle

David James is hoping Liver-pool can live up to their tag of title favourites at Newcastle on of Patrik Berger after two great displays against Middlesbrough and Forest. Monday after convincing wins over two Premiership strugglers, Middlesbrough and Not-

ungham Forest, at Anfield. Liverpool followed up their 5-1 demolition of Middlesbrough on Saturday with Tuesday night's 4-2 win against Forest to move to the top of the table above Arsenal.

But the Gunners can regain first place if they beat Forest at the City Ground on Saturday and James believes Liverpool need to underline their title credentials with a win at St James'

Liverpool have opened up a seven-point lead over fourthplaced Newcastle, whose 2-1 de-Feat at Coventry on Tuesday left them without a win in five Premiership games. James is hop-ing the Anfield club can add to

Kevin Keegan's problems.
"With Newcastle losing at Coventry it's created a bit of a gap but now we've got to go there and beat them on Monday," said James. "Nine goals in two games is good going but we're not getting carried away. It's OK heating Middlesbrough and Forest but you've got to do it in games like Monday's at the teams that are pushing for his side after a defeat, a loss

the title as well." James admitted that Stan admittat the foot of the table and Collymore had staked his claim without a win in sixteen games to renew his partnership with - a new record for the Premier Robbie Fowler at the expense League.

Collymore had a hand in three of Fowler's four goals in his comeback game against Boro and on Tuesday he scored two and made another for

Fowler against his former club. "Stan's done well in the last two games. He's been given an opportunity to do his thing and

he's impressed," James said. Collymore and Fowler plundered 55 goals between them last season, making them the most prolific strike pairing in the Premiership. Liverpool's manager, Roy Evans, is hoping that Collymore can make up for lost time now that he has put his early-season problems behind him.

Collymore's double strike

against Forest took his goal talto six for the season while Fowler's lone success took his total to eighteen. At the same stage last season, Fowler had thirteen to Collymore's four. "We know what a good part-nership it can be, 55 goals be-

tween them last season doesn't lie." said Evans. "It's a late start for Stan but,

if he puts his best foot forward, who knows what can happen?' The Nottingham Forest manager Frank Clark has the un-Newcastle. You've got to beat enviable task of trying to his lift which leaves them three points



The United Arab Emirates celebrate in Abu Dhabi yesterday after beating Kuwait 1-0 to earn a place in the Asian Cup final Photograph; Reuter

Olympia Scandal for Darragh

GENEVIEVE MURPHY reports from Olympia

Paul Darragh's fortunes, which revived when he began riding horses owned by King Hussein of Jordan's daughter, hit another high note yesterday when he won the Christmas Stocking Stakes during the opening session of the Olympia Show

Jumping Championships. The Irishman was riding Scandal, an eight-year-old Australian-bred mare bought by Princess Haya in January. "She likes the name, she thought every princess should have a Scandal," Darrugh said.

Colin Jackson, the former world cham-

pion, is returning from winter training in Australia as the new indoor season opens at the National Indoor Arena in

Birmingham next month. The 110 metres hundles world record holder will test

which takes place on 4 and 5 January

Four active coaches, Phil Jackson, Pat Four active coaches, Prill Jacksol, Pal Riley, Lenny Wikkens and Bill Fitch, have been included in the list of the 10 best coaches in National Basketball Asso-ciation history, released as part of the

league's 50th anniversary celebration.
NBA: Indiano 103 Maru 89; Toronto 97 New
Jensey 88; New York 99 Utah 94; Chanotte
93 Philadelphia 64; Chicago 129 LA Lakers
123 (pt/); Attonia 109 Dallas 73; Seattle 123
Golden State 83; Vancouver 93 Houston 92.

PROFESSIONAL PROMOTION (Doncest-er): 12-rd Commonwealth featherweight tible: J J Invin (Doncaster, holder) bit R Rayn-er (Austrohe) ats. 10-rd vascant Central Area featherweight tible: S Buil (Deraby) bit R Bad-cock (Bolton-on-Dearne) rsf 4th. 6-rd feath-enweight: R Event (Covertry) at A Robinson

TODAY'S

NUMBER

self over 60m flat at the meeting

Athletics

Boxing

The mare (who is like "a little rubber ball" according to Darragh) may not be the most likely of Princess Haya's horses to fulfil her dream of competing in the Sydney Olympics. Scandal nevertheless put up a great performance yesterday when Darragh defeated Michael Whitaker on Virtual Village Ashley by 1.82sec. Germany's world champion, Franke Sloothaak, filled third place on San Patrignano Weihaiwej.

Yesterday's contest earned qualification points for last night's Christmas Masters, which proved an excellent ploy as it meant that riders were trying instead of setting out for a quiet school.

(Simungham) rsf 2nd,6-rd bankacsweight: A Roberts (Donctaster) draw with N Pany (Mid-

PROFESSIONAL PROMOTION (Bethmal Gream): 6-rd light-middlewigst: M Tait (Harnes) bt D Powell (Lawtsham) pix. 6-rd light-middlewigst: J Mainon; (Penschoungs) bt R Hunte (Layton) rsi 5th. 6-rd light-welter-weight: D Stevens (Margate) bt C McAuley (Doncaster) diary 3rd.

Lawrie Miller, the left-handed opening betsmen who played 13 Tests for New Zealand between 1952 and 1958, has

Miguel Indurain, the five-times winner of the Tour de France, looks certain to

leave Banesto when his contract express at the end of the year. The future of induraln has been a mystery since he withdraw from the Tour of Spain In September. Banesto was criticised for having made the Clympic gold medalist ride in the race against his wishes.

near Wellington, after an undis-

esto when his contract expires

Cricket

Darragh, who only gained a left them in third place. Though place here after winning the Pippa Funnell has been a Volvo World Cup qualifier at Seville on Cera 11 days ago, was certainly ready to use Scandal's turn of foot with telling effect. The mare was raced until the age of five - and was a winner on the flat - but that career ended when she refused to enter the starting stalls.

The three-day event rider Pippa Funnell teamed up with William, her show-jumping husband, to win the inaugural Petplan Family Pairs Relay. They might have been beaten by John Whitaker's teenagers, Louise and Robert, but they incurred an eight second penalty for two fences down which

"rosette girl" at Olympia for about eight years, this was the first time that she has competed at the show. "It was nearly as frightening as Badminton, she said. "I was terrified of letting the side down."
She was nevertheless clear on

The Tourmaline Rose - as was William on Comex - to give the couple a polished victory.

OLYMPIA SHOW JEMPING CHAMPION-SHIPS: Christmas Candle States: 1 Scin-dal XX (P Demagh, Irl) cleer, 52.94; 2 Virtual Villege Ashley (M Whitaler, 68) cleer, 54.76; 3 San Parignano Welfalei (F Shothasis, Geri clear, 55.98. Petpise Family Peirs Rolley: 1.The Tournatine Rose (P Furnell) and Cornex (W Furnell) 66.26secs; 2 Arron IA Baddey) and Gordons Twist (M Jones) 69.93; 3 Cor-boy Magic Deep Heart (I, Whitaler) and Silver Cinders (R Whitaler) 70.83.

Mansell keeps his options open

Laren. However, despite being

excited by the prospect of com-

peting again and a probable £5m fee, Mansell turned down the

chance of returning as the

predict the future."

Motor racing

Nigel Mansell has denied that he has now retired from Formula One for good after turning down the chance to drive for Jordan-Peugeot next season.

There appeared to be no way back for Britain's 1992 world champion following his deci-sion to reject Eddie Jordan's approach. But the 43-year-old told BBC Radio 5 Live yesterday: "I haven't retired. Other opportunities are possibly out there. I am a very patient person, a little bit older now and more mature, and I'm just going to wait and see what is round the corner.

sport's oldest driver. "I thoroughly enjoyed my test in Barcelona and the professionalism and atmosphere of the Jordan team was as good as any I have ever worked with," "You never know what is

condition

round the corner. I've learnt Mansell said. "Eddie Jordan has that lesson over the last num-ber of years. You can never ever cial. Having seen their facility, and the 1997 car. I honestly be-Mansell was just 0.3sec off the lieve that the team can bepace set by Ralf Schumacher in come serious contenders. testing last week, despite being out of a grand prix car for 19 months following his embar-rassing comeback with Me-

"The idea of the test was originally to have some fun, but my natural competitive instincts took over very quickly and a re-turn to Formula One with Jordan Grand Prix became a serious possibility. However, I quickly came to realise that my schedule would not permit me to give sufficient time to the Jordan team and their sponsors."

Mansell will now concentrate on his golf complex in Devon, where he has reduced his handicap from five to one in a year.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Di-vision: Swanses 1 Charlion 2; Brighton 2

Football Wolves are giving a trial to the versa-tile New Zealand international Chris Zori-cich, who has made more then 30 appearances for his country. Martin Scott, the Sunderland full-back, has been ruled out until mid-January at the earliest after undergoing his third groin operation in sh months.

The Birmingham City goalkeeper Steve Sutton will be out for at least four weeks after X-rays revealed a broken linger sus-tained in training. Celtic are set to beam their New Year game with Rangers at librar to fans across the city at Parkhead. The club are making arrived 5 000 seets are across the city at Partited. The additional are making around 5,000 seats available in Cetic Park's South Stand for supporters to watch the match on 2 January live on glant screens.

Denmaric 7 Russis; 8 Spam; 9 Nesharlands; 3.0 liak; 1.1 Medico; 1.2 England; 1.3 Portugal; 1.4 Norway; 1.5 Bulgaris; 1.6 Romania; 1.7 Sweden; 1.8 United States; 1.9 South Africa; 2.0 Zerniba. Others: 2.9 South Africa; 2.0 Verlag, 2.5 Saud Arabia O Iran 0 (Saud Arabia win 4-3 on persidies).

AMPAN assessmanter: Potessmanna Control (Saud Arabia Win 4-3 AMPAN assessmanter)

runsmouti 2. BBLL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE Premier Division: Postponed: Durismine y Cellin

vision: Swenden 1 Cheffon 2; Brighton 2
Portsmouth 2.
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE Presenter Division:
Postponed: Durfermine v Celtic.
RUSSINSY: JATE RESULTS: FA Cup secondround replays: Burnley O Walsoil 1 (abarconed at half-har - Rocalight fature, new cine.
Aborday, 23 December); Peterborough 4 Enfield 1 (Peterborough away or Plymouth Argle); Scurahope 2 Wesham 3 (set; Wesham)
of home to West Harn); Wecombe 3 Barnet
2 (Wycombe at home to Bradford Cly). FA
carting Presidentistic Coventry 2 Newcostie
1; Userpool 4 Nottingham Friest 2 Nationwide Football League First Division: Bradford Chy O Reading 0; Crystal Palace O Sheffeld
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to Plymouth), Bell's Scottish League Premier Division: Calegue of Wester Sangor Chy
Division: East File 1 Durde 7. Spelling Challengis Cup quarter-Base. Macciestied 1
Bronsglove O, Leegue of Wester Bargor Chy
O Llansamiffield 2; Newtown O Ton Pentre 3.
Harp Lager League of Instant Cup Final ResiLeg-Galvidy trd 3 Cont, Cly 1. FA Cartaberg
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2 Verifican 2 Banson Borough 4; Surgen Util
2 Verifican 2 Banson Forest 7
Carrination 3 Second round:
Spernymour 4 Heroughe Count 7
Carrination 1 Burton 2; Recidition 0 Hostesowen
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Carrination 3 F

2 Worksop 1. Wheehoelead Kent League First DMaleor: Corinthian 1 Cray Wanderess 1. Jew-eon Eastern League Premier Division: Felissowe 1 Heddelp 1: Great Yamouth 2 Lowestoft 2: March 0 Newmenter C; Warboys 3 Watton 1. Bellett Seasesx County League First Division: Pagham 3 Shoreham 2: Peacehewen 1 League Prestpended Heistram v Burgass Hill. John O'Heare League Cup second-round replay: East Grinstand 1. Ringmer 2. Third round Arunded 35 Selsey 3 (sep.) Screwttx Divect League Premier Division: Binore 2 Bideford 6. North West Counties League Plat Division: Blackgool vision: Emors 2 Bideford 6, North West Counties League Piest Division: Blecipool Rovers 1 fraiford 2; Bootle 1 Pervin 4; Vauxhall GM 0 Neutotile Town 1, Jewson Wesser, League: Testchem 1 Romey 0. Northern Counties East League Premier Divisional Amold 2 Sobly 2, League Cop third resudd Amold 2 Sobly 2 League Cop third resudd Amold 25 Sobly 2, League Cop third resudd Amold 25 Sobly 2, Heague Cop third resudd Amold 20 Louis 3: Ossert Town 3; Astrikel 0 Glasshoughton 1: Biddeorth 1 Bidgs 1: North Fertity 1, Louis 3: Ossert Ablom 0 Hudmell 2; Portogifact 3 Herngain Raivey 3, Postilias LEAGUE Premier Division: Gerby County 0 Eventon 3; Oidham 3 Bobon 2, Second Divisions Grimsby 2 Stockport 1. European Under-21. Chestoplomathy Stroop Stx (Valletta); Matta 0 Spein 3.

Tiger Woods, who made a spectacular trensition from amateur status to the US PGA Tour, has been named Sportsman of the Year by the American week-ly magazine Sports lifustrated.

1997 EuroPEAN WOMEN'S TOUR SCHED-LIE. Mays 8-11. Estoril Open, Estoril, Porugel: 15-18 Tour Players' Clesse, The lytherington, Mecclesfield; 22-25 Carch Republic Open, Potha Kortstein, nr Prague. 29 Mays-1. Jonner Pothah Open, Amber Beltic, Moodystrole, Pothah Open, Swess Open, Leusanne, Switzerland; 18-21. Exten Masters, Evan, France; 28-29 Hermosey Cup., Cologhe, Germany, Jeng 3-8-29 Hermosey Cup., Cologhe, Germany, Jeng 3-8-29 Hermosey Open, Treudelberg, Hamburg, August 7-10 McConsali's WPGA chemponship of Europe, Gierneagles. Scotland; 14-17. Weetshix Women's British Open, Castrakers, Stockholm, Sweden; 28-31, Maries and Spencer Gunger Open, venue the; 18-21 Guerdan Insh Open, venue the; 18-28 Guerdan Insh Open, venue the; 18-28 Guerdan Insh Open, venue the; 18-29 Kanner's Word match play, America Moody Maries, France Open de Beaudelle, Daundle, France Open de Beaudelle, Daundle, France Tiger Woods, who made a spectacular

SPORTING DIGEST

Women's hockey received an early Christmes present yesterday when the International Olympic Committee approved the expension of the Sydney programme from eight to 10 teams. The automatic qualifiers will be the host national transfer of the system of the tion, the Olympic champions, Australia, and the winners of the Continental tour-naments. The line-up is completed by the first four or five from an Olympic

ice hockey NHL: Hertford 5 St. Louis 3; NY Islanders 4 Los Angales 3; Boston 6 Pittsburgh 4; Col-orado 4 Detroit 3; Phoenix 4 Washington 3; Toroneo 6 San Jose 3.

Pools dividends LITTLEWOODS: Trable chance (two dividends only): 24pts £140.85. 23 £5.90. Half-trae: £250.000. Four drawn: £135. 30 houses (paid on nine): £127.90. Five aways: £8,044.

VERNONS: Treble chance: 24pts £43.55. 23 £2.60, two dividends only (See rule 4.4). Third dividend carcolled as it would have been less than £1.00. These monies included in remaining dividends. Pressier 10: £428.95.

Rugby Union

Gary Pearca, the former England prop, will make his debut for Nottlingham in Saturday's Pikington Cup fifth-round the against London Scottish. Pearca, who won 37 caps, joined Nottingham from Northampton last week.

MALY SQUAD by Camphing, 28 December, Named, 3, December, Indianati, 3, December, Indianati, 3, December, Indianati, 4, Ameningh; A Castalian, C Checomoto, Workshotton, W day Sa, I Francescent, J Garber, A Grito, L Meriten, F Mezzeriol, A Moscorot,

Latest snow and weather reports Re

Schools sport

to be adopted in primary schools late next year. The Sportsmark and Sports-mark Gold awards were launched in sec-ondary establishments in October, aimed at recognising those schools which provide a quality physical edu-cation and sport programme.

PROLAND TEAM (Estropean Worm Langue Super Division sean-fload first Vitermany, Berlin, today): L. Lomes (Staffordshire Schwartz (Berlis), Germany, N Strus Schopp, O Names, E Schall.

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12

The position occupied by England in the rankings published by Fifa, world football's governing body. This time last year they were in 21st place.

players with potential, page 24

FIRST TEST: Glamorgan spinner takes three wickets to spare his team's blushes as Zimbabwe's captain leads by example

Croft papers over the England cracks.

reports from Bulawayo Zimbabwe 256-6 v England

Until vesterday, Michael Atherton must have felt a bit like the African dung beetle that spends all its time rolling huge balls of debris around in Sisyphus-like futility. But just as Zimbabwe threatened to make one man's burden intolerable, along comes a chirpy Welsh sparrow called Robert Croft. An off-spinner whose flight and fight have added levity to the visitors' cause, and ensured, on a day when England started poorly,

that honours are even. Croft, now 26, and appearing in only his second Test, already looks like the old stager England's assistant coach, John Emburey, became after more than half a dozen years in the role. Emburey quickly paid tribute to the way Croft found the optimum pace to bowl his offbreaks, in light of the slow pitch conditions

As this usually meant giving the hall plenty of air, it was presumably slower than normal, which allowed the ball to grip and turn, though not extravagantly - something that may happen as the pitch and match wear on. It is a prospect the Glamorgan spinner is aiready relishing and after first day figures that read 29-12-45-3 he has every reason to feel more confident than England's batsmen will do too, should Paul Strang's leg-breaks begin to bite.

In any case, four more wickets are needed before England take strike, and Zimbabwe. who bat a long way down, are quite capable of adding at least as helium to Atherton's lead

ACROSS

Reducing bottle? Girl's

trying to control figure

12 Shag circling edge of shore in tide (4)

13 Reportedly those who acquire near buildings (5)14 Oneen tricked by second

of Rooks (4)
17 Figure regarded as an example in Bury? (7)

18 A doctor in good deal's re-

turned as locum (7)

19 Boisterous? Bathing's no

good in the drink (7) 7 22 Charge interest (7) 24 Wrong drink? About right 8

10 Argue seconds after the

event (7) 1) Like spring in Castile,

maybe (7)

another hundred runs to their

overnight score. Croft apart, there was very little else to crow about, as the tourists conceded almost a hundred runs a session up until tea. Afterwards, England's coach, David Lloyd, felt that after a "poor morning" the team had responded to some "harsh lunchtime words" from Atherton. A dressing-down that he must have delivered in Welsh, for all the immediate effect it had, and it was not until after tea that England looked a team in control.

As expected, the home side's war of propaganda came to an end when the coin came down in their favour and all talk of fielding evaporated into cloudless skies. Instead, it was England, with Chris Silverwood preferred to Andy Caddick as the third mer, who had to head out to bowl under a burning sun.

Success was instant - in terms of five-day matches - but ultimately uninspiring, as Darren Gough struck with his third ball of the morning. It was Gough's first Test wicket for 18 months - since the Lord's Test of 1995 to be precise - and it owed much to John Crawley's sharp reaction catch at short-leg, as the ball flew quickly from the inside-edge of Stuart Carlisle's thrusting bat.

Zimbabwe's opening pair have a reputation for being stodgier than "sadza" - a glue like staple made from maizemeal - and parting them before the new ball had dulled was the perfect opportunity for England to get at their strokeplaying middle-order before the ball softened. Woefully, length and direction took a downturn.

Alastair Campbell, batting as if the burdens of captaincy were

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

Quite in line, English (5)

Assemble in convention

29 One entering country (or

Hoot from one in car

er go to pot (9,4)

crushing about noon (7) District where people nev-

Minute precipitate (7) Ring in Ben shows the

Such a trying type! (7)

A demonstrative Amen-

Close fifth of voluntaries

on organ (4) A trifle light up top, in

Double might get nitwit.

state) (7)

time (4)

can hero (7)

drink (7)

Bulawayo scoreboard

weight, struck the ball with great authority, taking regular boundaries from England's profligacy. as Alan Mullally, and the understandably nervy debutant Silverwood, strayed from the

business areas of this slow pitch. Silverwood, that monolithic first Test wicket claimed when he had Grant Flower brilliantly caught by Nasser Hussain diving to his left at fourth slip, eventually settled. Later he took the second new ball in front of Mullally, a brave captaincy decision considering he had been conceding around five runs per over.

Like the magnificent Graeme Pollock, the left-handed Campbell tends to favour the front foot, yet is equally quick to pun-ish anything short with a crunching assortment of pulls and cuts. Together with Grant Flower, he put on 127 for the second wicket.

His fifty took 70 balls, and was quick by Test standards, containing nine fours. A boundary count that was stemmed with the introduction of Robert Croft, who eventually snared the Zimbabwe skipper, luring him into an injudicious lofted drive that ended up in Silverwood's hands at backward cover.

Zimbabwe than showed their inexperience by allowing England back into the game that Andy Flower and Dave Houghton had all but closed them out of with a partnership worth 70 at teal

Apart from being a good play-er of spin, Houghton is a noto-

one-day player, whose heroics as an opener last Sunday were not matched in the middle-order as he became Croft's third victim. By now, Tufnell, operating in tandem with Croft, slowed Zimbabwe's rapid earlier progress although Andy Flower, batting

dlesex left-armer. With the new ball taken, Sil-

riously poor starter after any kind of break and Zimbabwe's most experienced player soon fell to Croft, the victim of a lazy offside push that found its way into Alec Stewart's gloves. His departure brought the me's second debutant, Andy

with unaccustomed resolve, reached his fifty with a lovely lofted drive for four off the Mid-

verwood added a second wicket to his tally, allowing England to finish in better shape than

It's enough to get one's

back up, perhaps (13) Try driving into a city – it's torture (5)

Enclose money (5)
Earliest of subjects possi-bly formed this? (7)
Carrier's placed antique in

lobby (4-3) Hazards One Club in

A scholar to observe, ris-

ing Scot (7)
Food in abundance, with-

short game (7)



Robert Croft celebrates the wicket of Zimbabwe's David Houghton during the first day's play in Bulawayo yesterday

Atherton's apprehension over spin

While Robert Croft stole the show with his splendid off-spin bowling - it was the best spell I have seen for a long time - it was a day which also emphasised the inherent lack of faith that Mike Atherton has in spin

In the morning, after the boost of an early wicket, England's seam bowlers produced a most wasteful and disapwhich with a little early moisture gave them some help.

Atherton tried all five of his bowlers. Yet by lunch the stirring strokeplay of Alistair Campbell and the more adhesive methods of opener Grant it was now that Atherton missed Flower had given Zimbabwe an a most important trick, and all

important advantage. But there had been one crucial piece of evidence: both Croft and Phil Tufnell had turned the ball. Campbell and Flower played

themselves in again after lunch before Flower edged Chris Silerwood to slip. Six runs later Croft bowled to Campbell and gave a ball which be held back a beguiling amount of air. powerfully, but he was beaten in the air and the ball sliced to backward point. It was a great

piece of bowling. With the ball turning and with two new batsmen at the crease.

Henry Blofeld on a superb day for England's spinner Robert Croft

because of his apprehensions about spin bowling which have all too often been evident. He should at once have brought Campbell took the bait and Tufnell on at the Town End to moment for the two spinners to bowl in tandem.

Yet Atherton persisted with Silverwood and Darren Gough who, although they bowled better than they had in the morning, which was not difficult,

same problems as the two spinners. The two new batsmen. David Houghton and Andy Flower, both started badly but managed to survive. Croft continued at the airport

end after tea and soon produced another beauty. He bowled Houghton a quicker ball which went on with his arm and away from the right hander and found the edge of his back-foot er demonstration of the excellent and wide variety Croft has at his disposal. In Swansea, his mentor, Don Shepherd, the former Glamorgan bowler, must have been delighted. It was only now that Ather-

ton brought Tufnell into the

Manchester clubs and was City's original target as the suc-

cessor to Brian Horton 18

months ago, has become the

more pressure on Neal, who

favourite to take over. City's plight near the foot of the First Division has placed

would have done if he had joined forces with Croft soon after lunch. His captain had hardly given him a vote of confidence. By not using Croft and Tufnell together until so late in the day, Atherton did not give

attack with Croft and of course

the left-arm spinner did not

bowl with the confidence he

bowling Zimbabwe out on this first day. He must realise that good spinners are an integral part of an attack and, just as important, he must learn to trust them - otherwise what is the point of having them in the

City planning the Maine move

Football

Manchester City will safeguard the future of their Maine Road headquarters even if they seal a deal to move into the new stadium to be built for the Commonwealth Games.

The First Division club have been given a tentative offer to become "anchor tenants" in the 60.000-seater stadium to be developed across the city at Eastlands after the Games take place in 2002.

Even though City have welcomed the initial idea with open arms, they are also keen to confirm Maine Road will still have a part to play if the move takes place.

"Maine Road is safe as a sporting venue. We feel it would still be a viable sports arena even if we did go to the new stadium," said City's chief executive Colin Barlow, who harbours a

ahead of Manchester as the site of the new £210m-plus Nation-

"We were invited to become anchor tenants at the stadium when Manchester formulated its National Stadium bid last October and I was part of the bid committee," Barlow said. "It was an idea that appealed to us and it's something we will be continuing with even though Manchester was not awarded

the National Stadium itself." Maine Road has been the home of City since 1923 and despite once housing a crowd of 84,569 for an FA Cup tie against Stoke in 1934 - a British record for any game played outside London or Glasgow – the ground capacity is now 31,000. The club also has a training complex at nearby Platt Lane, a development which helped win them the Community Club

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sense of disappointment that the Sports Council chose Wembley they see no reason why their current headquarters should not continue to flourish if a move is eventually agreed.

The bitter blow of losing out to Wembley was cushioned when the Sports Council revealed they would be banding over £60m for the new Manchester stadium.

Meanwhile, Phil Neal yesterday said that he is doing his

best to cope with the pressure of being Manchester City manager - despite the constant speculation that he will be out of a job in the New Year.

Neal continues to put on a brave face even though the Manchester United No 2 Brian Kidd, the former Leeds manager Howard Wilkinson and the current Wimbledon manager Joe Kinnear are the latest crop of names to be linked with the club. Kidd, who played for both

said: "I can't afford to let the speculation get me down as the players don't want to see a miserable manager."

"It would be detracting from what I'm being paid for and it would be an injustice to the fans and the players," he said "But I am aware and I am told about

hat's going on." Neal has vowed to continue to battle for recognition at the club as he prepares for Saturday's vital derby fixture with Oldham. He added: "I was not the first choice but I am trying to earn my spurs to gain the post. I was brought here as a No 2 to Steve Coppell and was very happy to be so. But you cannot get disgruntled about certain names cropping up, although it happens almost daily. It's get-ting absord."

A new home and future for Newcastle

Newcastle United will map out their financial future today by unveiling plans for a new stadium and a stock market floration. The club's owner, Sir John Hall, has made a huge investment in players and the combination of a bigger stadium and a share issue would offset that outlay and pave

the way for further spending. Newcastle's current home. St James' Park, only has a capacity of 36,610 at a time when the club could attract the 50,000plus crowds which watch Man-

chester United at Old Trafford. Newcastle's preferred site is believed to be on Castle Leazes Moor. As far as flotation plans go, Hall had originally planned to float his ambitious scheme to create a Sporting Chib, with bas-ketball, ice hockey and rugby teams, but it is now thought only the football club will move for a full market listing, with estimates of a value for the club ranging between £140m to £200m. Footsie football index, page 18



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